ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Dollywood: Sunshine Dizon's name a misnomer?

NEWS / A16

UN report says RP strategy to blame for spate of killings

ACROSS / A13

Fishkill reported in Rapu-Rapu; mining firm blamed

SPORTS / A24

Red-hot Sox sweep World Series

RP firm wins award for 'binalot' meals

By TJ Burgonio

IN BUSINESS, IT PAYS TO GO GREEN, TO embrace one's roots, and to engage small communities.

Ask the owner of Binalot, a fast-food chain famous for its low-budget Pinoy meals wrapped in banana leaves harvested

RP FIRM/ A14

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, October 30, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 324 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

World oil tops $93; rise in local prices looms

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES YESTERDAY rose to a new trading high above $93 a barrel in Asia as a result of a weakening US dollar, growing political tensions in the Middle East and increasing worries about the supply outlook ahead of the northern hemisphere winter.

"The strong price is due to supply con-

WORLD / A8

Erap baffles opposition

We want to know his plans, says Binay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada yesterday sought to placate restive forces baffled by his reluctance to join calls for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, insisting he remained allied with the opposition.

"I remain in the opposition as long as the administration is there," said Estrada, who became a free man on Friday after accepting executive clemency from the woman who took over when he was removed from office in 2001.

While avowedly respecting the "human aspect" of Estrada's decision to accept the pardon in his desire to be with his ailing mother, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is president of the United Opposition, said UNO now should determine where the ex-President's loyalty lay.

"We do not know what he wants to do. I don't want to speculate—I don't know what his plans are," Binay said in an interview yesterday.

But Binay said he was convinced the decision by Ms Arroyo to pardon Estrada was

ERAP/ A9

HIS political rights restored, pardoned plunderer Joseph Estrada votes at the Pedro Cruz Elementary School in San Juan City.
JOAN BONDOC

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo fills out her ballot at the Lubao Elementary School in Barangay San Nicholas 1st, Lubao, Pampanga.
LYN RILLON

CAMPAIGN buntings and posters for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections overwhelm voters at the Hermenegildo Atienza Elementary School in Baseco, Tondo, Manila.
REM ZAMORA

Antigraft court may confiscate Erap assets

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN CAN go after the personal assets of deposed President Joseph Estrada if it fails to find his illegally amassed wealth, estimated at P876 million, that it ordered forfeited in favor of the government, according to the antigraft court's acting spokesperson.

Renato Bocar, who is also the executive clerk of court, said the Sandiganbayan could confiscate Estrada's assets should he refuse to give up the money and property specified in the decision.

In its Sept. 12 decision convicting Estrada, the antigraft court ordered the forfeiture of:

- P545.291 million in "jueteng" payoffs with interest, including the P200 million deposited in a bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.
- P189 million in commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares.
- The P142-million "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo did not absolve the ousted lead-

ANTIGRAFT/ A8

Leyte Gulf battle shown in miniature

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR AS LITTLE AS P25, ONE can catch a glimpse of Philippine history—at one of its bloodiest points.

Arrayed in a corner of Manila's Walled City is a small exhibit of scale-model aircraft, weapons and ships used in the biggest naval battle in history involving more than 600 ships and half a million men—the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

The Vintage Warcraft Exhibit in Intramuros opened last week to coincide with the 62nd anniversary of the Oct. 24-26, 1944, battle that led to the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese rule.

It was in Leyte that Gen. Dou-

LEYTE/ A15

BARANGAY, SK ELECTIONS

Over 68% voter turnout, says Comelec

By Inquirer Bureaus, Alcuin Papa and Beverly T. Natividad
in Manila

AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE were killed in isolated outbursts of violence and a schoolhouse went up in flames as millions of Filipinos voted in what officials said were largely peaceful barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections across the country.

More than a million candidates took part in the country's latest rambunctious exercise in democracy amid tight security.

Acting Commission on Elections Chair Resurreccion Borra said that based on reports from the field, voter turnout would likely surpass the 68-percent turnout registered in the 2002 village elections.

The three deaths yesterday brought to at least 23 the number of candidates and their followers killed since the election campaign began last month, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr. said.

Voting in some areas was also marred by flooding and landslides.

The candidates were vying for nearly 672,000 posts in about 42,000 barangays.

Elected to three-year terms, the winning candidates will fill grass-roots posts in the country of 89 million people, and their work will range from settling family quarrels to overseeing garbage collection and weeding out suspected insurgents in their neighborhoods.

President Macapagal-Arroyo lined up to vote in her hometown of Lubao in Pampanga, waving and smiling to a small crowd.

His political rights fully restored after Ms Arroyo pardoned him last week following his plunder conviction, Joseph Estrada voted in a school in San Juan City.

Midway through the voting, Comelec Commissioner Rene

OVER 68%/ A14

SA SUSUNOD, BAKA DANCING SHOWDOWN NA NG MGA PRESO!

Dance fever sweeps jail in Makati

By Julie M. Aurelio

IT'S HALLOWEEN OR THERE must be a dancing virus going around.

In the tradition of Cebu's dancing inmates, denizens of the Makati City Jail (MCJ) had their own dance revolution on Saturday, in observance of National Correctional Consciousness Week.

A hundred inmates of different shapes and sizes bumped, shook and pivoted to a funky dance beat on the basketball court of the facility on Lawton Street to the cheers of fellow prisoners and guards.

DANCE/ A4

Medic reveals Japan war atrocities in RP

OSAKA, JAPAN—MORE than 60 years had passed since the end of World War II, but Akira Makino still suffered nightmares about Filipino hostages and the injections that rendered them unconscious. Then there was the one of the surgical knife gouging a human liver.

Every time he woke up to flashbacks of horrific killing scenes, he shut his eyes tight and tried to turn his mind away from something he no longer wanted to think about.

But Makino, 84, also felt he had to speak out about his wartime experiences to as many people as possible during the final years of his life.

"These were nothing but living-body experiments," Makino said as he sat on a bench wearing just his pajamas at a hospital in the western Japanese city of Osaka, making some of his last comments before he died earlier this year.

"My captain combat surgeon often showed us human intestines, and said this was the liver and that was that and so on," he said. "He did that to train us. The captain said if he died, we would have to take up a scalpel to conduct the operations instead of him."

Makino, a low-ranked medic deployed to the Philippines during the final years of World War II, began making his striking statements on Japanese war atrocities in public just last year. He was regarded as the first former Japanese soldier to have been stationed in the Philippines to speak of vivisections on hostages.

His remarks stirred con-

MEDIC/ A15

AKIRA Makino spoke up on brutality.

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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OWWS?
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Erap lawyers on Comelec shortlist

Saguisag, Rodriguez join Tañada, others as commissioner bets

By Beverly T. Natividad

TWO LAWYERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada, an ex-senator and a former law school dean made it to Malacañang's list of potential appointees to the Commission on Elections.

Acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Z. Borra said at a press briefing yesterday the Palace had sought the poll agency's comments on the list of nominees it had drawn up to fill the four vacancies at the Comelec.

The candidates, he said, included Estrada lawyers Rene Saguisag and Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, also the convicted President's spokesperson, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, and former University of the East law school dean and government corporate counsel Amado Valdez.

Malacañang also listed the Comelec's own law department director Alioden Dalaig, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) chief legal counsel Howard Calleja and agriculturist Severo L. Maluenda as candidates.

Maluenda, it will be recalled, had filed his certificate of candidacy for senator in the May 2007 elections but failed to make it to the Comelec's official list of candidates.

Borra said the list that Malacañang forwarded to the commissioner two weeks ago did not specify who were in the running for the Comelec chairmanship.

There are currently four vacancies in the Comelec, including the chairmanship after Benjamin Abalos resigned on Oct. 1 after becoming embroiled in National Broadband Network (NBN) project scandal.

Two commissioners—Borra and Florentino Tuason—are due to retire in February 2008. The poll body also has one more commissioner's seat to fill since it is supposed to be composed of a chair and six commissioners.

Borra said the poll body will discuss their recommendations with the President. Aside from those on the list, the Comelec might also endorse somebody else, he said.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, for his part, said he was inclined to suggest someone from the academe.

He said the Comelec commissioners felt the most important quality to consider in an appointee was someone committed to having clean and honest elections.

Both Borra and Sarmiento said they would welcome women candidates to the constitutional post since Malacañang's list was noticeably made up only of men.

FOR SOUTHERN PROGRESS
President Macapagal-Arroyo swears in Saeed A. Daof as chair of the Southern Philippines Development Authority. Daof is director general of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development in Mindanao. The SPDA, under the Office of the President, is mandated by law to accelerate balanced growth in the southern Philippines. At right is Domini M. Torrevillas, CPPDM public affairs director. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

COPS SAY
Glorietta 2 floor about to collapse /A7

SMC, TOYOTA
win labor cases vs own workers /A7

INVESTIGATION
of Rangers in '06 coup try starts /A5

'Humbled' Puno won't lead proposed transition junta

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO S. Puno yesterday turned down a proposal aired by a coalition calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo that he head a caretaker government.

A statement issued by the Supreme Court's spokesperson said Puno was humbled by the trust placed in him by those who want him to lead the country but he appealed to them to "keep the judiciary out of the present political turmoil."

The call for Puno to head a transition junta was made by the anti-Arroyo Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME) headed by three Catholic bishops. Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona also joined the KME in calling for the President's resignation, saying she had "no moral ascendancy to lead the country" in the light of numerous charges of cheating and bribery against her administration.

Puno, the statement said, had not talked to the group but only read about their proposal in the newspapers.

"The news reports, nonetheless, if accurate, are humbling and the trust confided in Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno is appreciated. The Chief Justice, however, would rather stay out of politics and remain in the judiciary which he has committed to ensure its independence and strengthen its integrity," said the statement signed by Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez.

Puno called on the public to spare the judiciary from political talk, saying the judiciary needed to distance itself from politics in order to do its job.

"Chief Justice Puno would also like to appeal to everyone to keep the judiciary out of the present political turmoil ... the judiciary should always be above politics. Otherwise, it loses its authority as an effective and credible dispenser of laws and justice," the statement said.

Ms Arroyo's recent pardon of deposed President Joseph Estrada, coming less than two months after he was convicted of plunder, drew sharp criticism from Catholic bishops and civil society groups that participated in the people power revolt that ousted him in 2001.

Gov't-MILF talks seen resuming next month

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS to formally resume peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Malaysia by mid-November, Presidential Peace Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said yesterday.

Dureza said the exact date of the talks would be set by Malaysia, which is helping facilitate the talks between the government and the Muslim secessionist group.

He said the "breakthrough" in the talks that had stalled came during executive meetings the two sides held in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 23-24.

"They have agreed on the territorial aspect of the ancestral domain issue," Dureza said in a phone interview. He said he was informed of the latest development by Rodolfo Garcia, head of the government peace panel.

The peace talks between the government and the MILF bogged down last year over the issue of territory.

This after the government rejected the MILF's demand to include close to 1,000 villages in its proposed future homeland and that this should be done without a referendum in Mindanao.

Dureza said that once the peace talks resume next month, the two sides are expected to sign an agreement on the territory aspect of the ancestral domain issue.

After this is achieved, he said "the best-case scenario" would be for the two sides to finally sign an agreement on the ancestral domain issue.

"So that we can move quickly to the other remaining issues," he said.

GMA asked: How about releasing other prisoners?

By Jerome Aning

MILITANT LABOR YESTERDAY backed the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in its call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to release other prisoners, particularly political prisoners, now that she has pardoned deposed President and convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada.

Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) chair Elmer Labog urged Ms Arroyo to free all prisoners held by the government for their political beliefs.

"If former President Joseph Estrada who was convicted of plunder was given executive clemency by Mrs. Arroyo, then it is only proper and just that political detainees, particularly the Tagaytay 5, who have been incarcerated for more than a year now, must be released soon," Labog said.

The KMU chief was referring to the five members of a peasant organization who were picked up and accused of being members of the communist New People's Army—Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Aristedes Sarmiento, Riel Custodio, Enrico Ybanez and Michael Masayes.

Labog said if the President was boasting that her decision to free Estrada was motivated by the rule of law and her sense of justice, "then she should release all political detainees before Christmas so that they can be with their families and make up for lost time."

The labor leader also appealed to the Catholic bishops to actively support the people organizations' campaign to free all political prisoners.

The city of Manila, meanwhile, is preparing to give Estrada a "hero's welcome," Mayor Alfredo Lim said yesterday.

Lim, a political ally of Estrada, said a motorcade and a visit to City Hall will be arranged in the next two weeks. *With Allison W. Lopez*

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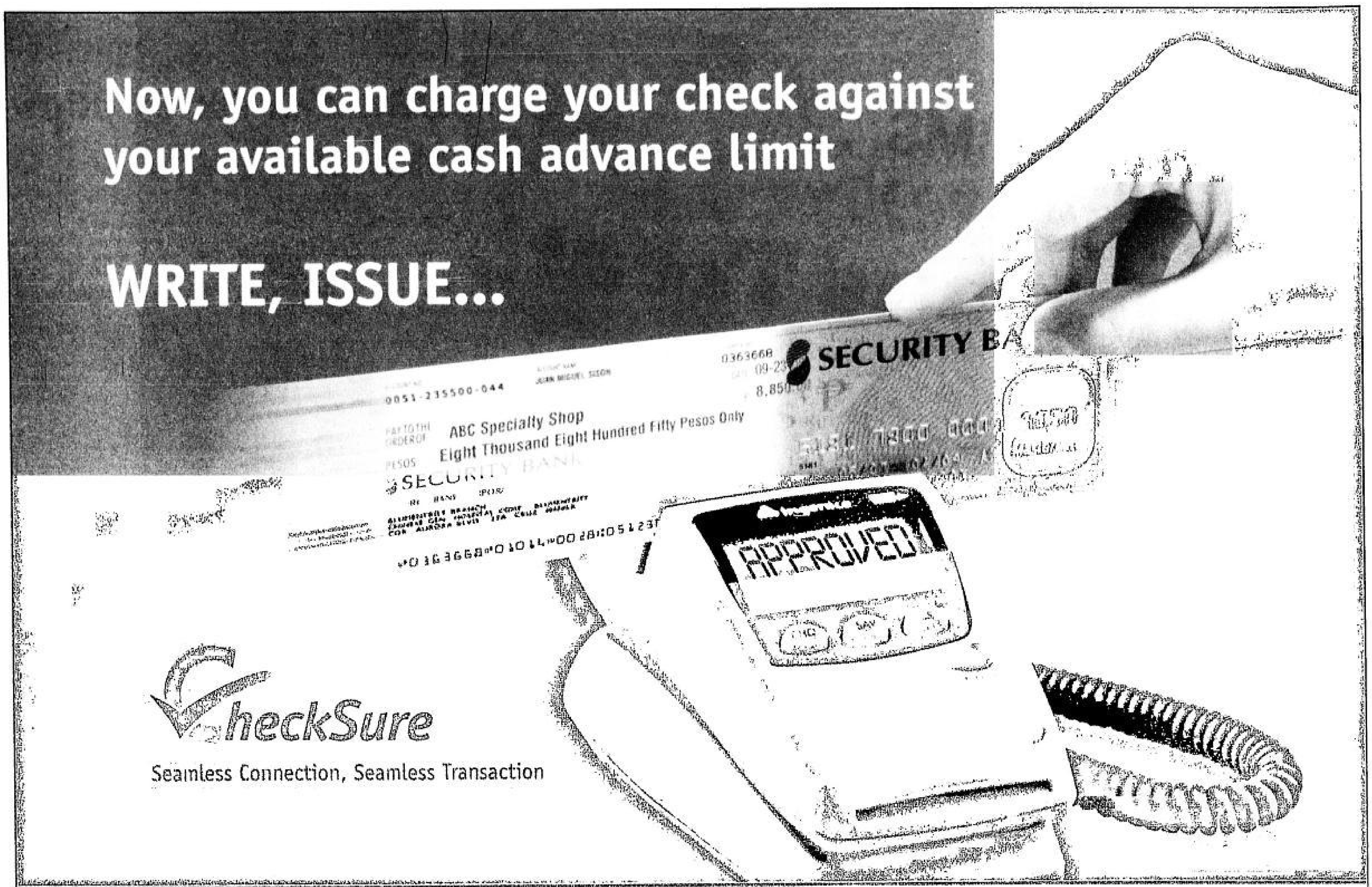
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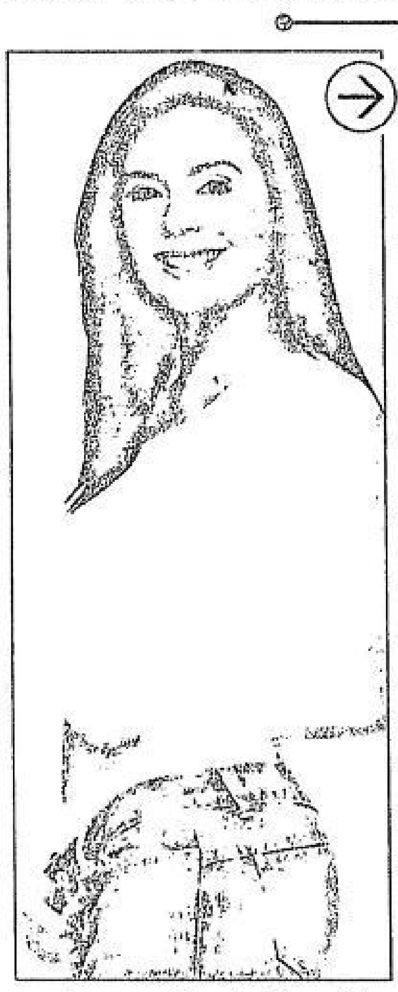
Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction continues to make waves in the slimming industry since its official launch in Manila early last year. Tagged as the first non-invasive breakthrough in body contouring, Ultrashape uses an ultrasound beam to breakdown and liquefy fats from outside the body. Promising an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment, it effectively reduces fat deposits on multiple body areas such as the tummy, flanks and thighs.

A small amount of fat reduction is just not worth undergoing surgery for. Liposuction usually involves massive body contouring, and is often not recommended when only a few inches of fat have to be removed. Thus, for the majority of people who only need a few touch-ups, Ultrashape offers a much safer alternative. It gives the benefits of liposuction without the risks or side effects, surgical scars and downtime. The result: Smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt even without your clothes on!

Due to its increasing popularity, demand for Ultrashape is high often resulting to fully booked appointment schedules from its growing roster of clients. These women have testified – they have finally found the best alternative to liposuction!



Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, 38

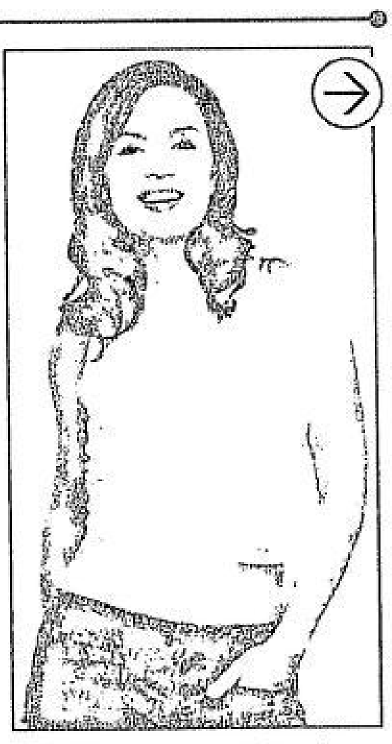
"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains in your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month.

Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Lyn Ching-Pascual, 34

"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the easy treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight-loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 100 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.

With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After trying it firsthand, I was like, 'Is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as.if nothing happened. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"



Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, 42

"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my catering and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. More so, if it's lipo we're going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?! I must be very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous!"

Undeniably, Marie France's Ultrashape is solid proof that the trends in slimming now slant towards the approach that's safer yet as effective. After going through a weight-loss program, it is highly recommended to continue with Ultrashape treatments right after. It's the best final touch-up in getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 233-7637; Pampanga (045) 961-2981.

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Dance fever sweeps Makati City Jail

From page A1

The atmosphere was festive; there were food and handicraft for sale and, for a moment, the inmates felt they were free again.

Jonathan Embico, a choreographer doing time for homicide, said: "*Parang nasa labas na rin* (It's like being out of jail)."

Routines

Embico created the dazzling dance routines for the male and female inmates.

For the men's dance number, Embico and his inmates took off their shirts, tied red bandannas around their heads, put on red tarpaulin sacks over their shorts, and smudged charcoal and blue glitter on their bodies.

They started their routine with two dancers doing somersaults. Then the rest of the inmates hopped in, clapping and thumping their feet to everybody's delight.

A day before their dance debut, not everyone had mastered the steps, said the warden, Supt. Delvic Oreiro.

"But I told them the dance didn't have to be perfect. What's important is they're able to work together despite their differences," Oreiro said.

The dance performance was the highlight of Makati's observance of National Correctional Consciousness Week, which ended on Sunday.

Black attire

The female inmates also put on a separate performance. They were similarly dressed in black T-shirts and red skirts. But instead of smearing their faces with charcoal, they wore makeup.

"It's fun dancing with other people. It helps me forget that I'm cooped up in a small cell," said Jenniel, a female inmate, who declined to give her last name.

She has been at the MCJ for two years on a robbery charge, but yesterday, her sunny smile and sassy dancing belied her problems.

The two groups rehearsed alternately on the basketball court but the women's group had at least a month to prepare.

"*Siyempre mas magaling kami! Sila madungis, kami malinis* (We're the better dancers. They're messy, we're clean)," quipped Emily, who's in jail for peddling illegal drugs. She also declined to give her last name.

But the rivalry disappeared when the dancing started.

2-week rehearsal

"I taught my inmates the steps in two weeks. They were very cooperative. Who ever wanted to dance was allowed to dance," Embico said.

The choreographer used to teach bar girls on P. Burgos Street in Makati the latest dance steps until he crossed the law and landed in jail.

He said he was surprised and amused when he was asked to teach street dance to his inmates.

"*Nung una nahirapan ako dahil matitigas ang katawan nila. Pero natuto din naman sila at nakikisama* (At first, I had a hard time because their bodies were stiff. But they learned the steps and we had teamwork)," Embico said.

Aside from providing entertainment, dancing was a way of teaching inmates how to get along with each other despite different interests and backgrounds.

"By learning to dance together, they will learn how it is to be united for a common cause," Oreiro explained.

The jail's 527 occupants may come from different "inmates' trades"—snatching, robbery, murder and drug peddling—but it is possible to get them to dance to together to one beat.

"*Parang* rehabilitation *na rin nila yan sa paglaya nila* (It's part of rehabilitation. They can use this knowledge when they leave jail)," Oreiro said.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 29 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Rebel soldiers offered jobs as VIP bodyguards"—misspelled the first name of a dismissed Scout Ranger. The dismissed Scout Ranger is Cpl. Medel—not Medal—Calda.

* * *

THE SAME STORY also misstated the rank of the Philippine Army chief. The Army chief is Lt. Gen.—not Lt. Col.—Alexander Yano. The same mistake appeared in a story on Page A6—"Honors for Army officer."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A19 carried the erroneous headline—"No funds for salary hikes, Tacloban gov says." Carlos Jericho Petilla is the governor of Leyte—not Tacloban.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 30, 2007
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:18-25
Gospel: Luke 13:18-21

Jesus continued speaking, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? Imagine a person who has taken a mustard seed and planted it in the garden. The seed has grown and become like a small tree, so that the birds of the air shelter in its branches."

And Jesus said again, "What is the kingdom of God like? Imagine a woman who has taken yeast and hidden it in three measures of flour until it is all leavened."

Commentary

We suffer, but we must see our lives in the light of forever, with God's eye and God's vision of glory and hope for us. We are here to reveal the good of God to all the world and to live in freedom, sharing that life with others. All the earth and all that God has made groans in hope, in expectation for what is still to come in grace and wholeness for everything. And we who have this Spirit know that we wait for the fullness of redemption that has been seeded and begun in us in baptism. We wait with patient endurance. We live fully knowing that the Spirit of God is redeeming everything in us and in the world.

The kingdom of God—Jesus' power and presence in the world—is like a mustard seed, so tiny as to be unnoticed. But once it is planted it can take over an entire field, just as it is meant to take over our lives and the lives of all around us. It grows to be a sheltering presence for others. And it is hidden like yeast that is kneaded into bread that can feed a world so that all can rise to life now and for eternity.

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Pinoys in crew of ship

NAIROBI—SOMALI pirates have hijacked a Japanese-owned ship in the latest such seizure in the Horn of Africa nation's notoriously lawless waters, a regional maritime official said Monday.

Andrew Mwangura, head of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme, said shipping sources in Somalia and Japan confirmed the vessel, possibly a tanker, was seized on Sunday eight nautical miles offshore.

"We are trying to establish what demands they have, and how many people were on board," Mwangura told Reuters by telephone from the Kenyan port city of Mombasa.

"There are five well-organized pirate groups operating in Somali waters. We know the one which took this boat," he said, adding that more details should be available later Monday.

Kyodo news agency reported the vessel was captained by a South Korean and crew members included nationals from the Philippines, South Korea and Burma (Myanmar).

The waters off Somalia, which has been in anarchy and without a central government since 1991, are considered one of the world's most dangerous due to the proliferation of pirates.

Reuters

Finally, probe of 'coup' rangers begins

By Nikko Dizon

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY TRIED TO BEgin its investigation of the 14 Scout Ranger personnel it still had in detention on their role in the February 2006 coup attempt, the first time the soldiers would be questioned since being placed in the Army stockade in Tanay, Rizal, almost two years ago.

The soldiers, who belong to the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment, were asked to give statements by lawyers from the Army Inspector General's office early yesterday morning at Camp Capinpin, their lawyer Vicente Verdadero said in a phone interview.

"They should have been investigated when they were apprehended last year," Verdadero said.

He said he immediately sent word to the soldiers not to talk to any investigators without his presence.

He said he only learned the military lawyers were at Camp Capinpin from a soldier's wife.

Last week, the Army gave dishonorable discharges to 26 other Scout Ranger personnel who had been detained with the 14 soldiers. The 26 were dismissed for violating several Articles of War by allegedly participating in the aborted power grab in 2006.

Confirming that yesterday was the first time the 14 Rangers were subjected to investigation, Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said the slow pace of the probe was due to, among other things, the "shortage of manpower" in the Inspector General's office.

"It was [also] due to the enormity of the legal concerns that we needed to address simultaneously," he said.

Torres said the IG had its hands full dealing with the issues of the extrajudicial killings, the military offensives in Basilan and Sulu, the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, several writ of habeas corpus petitions, and the Magdalo case, among others.

"However, the investigation of the February destabilization (attempt) was never neglected as the legal process is continuing in the (probe of the Marine and Scout Ranger) officers and men. The case of the 26 other (enlisted personnel) was already resolved," Torres said.

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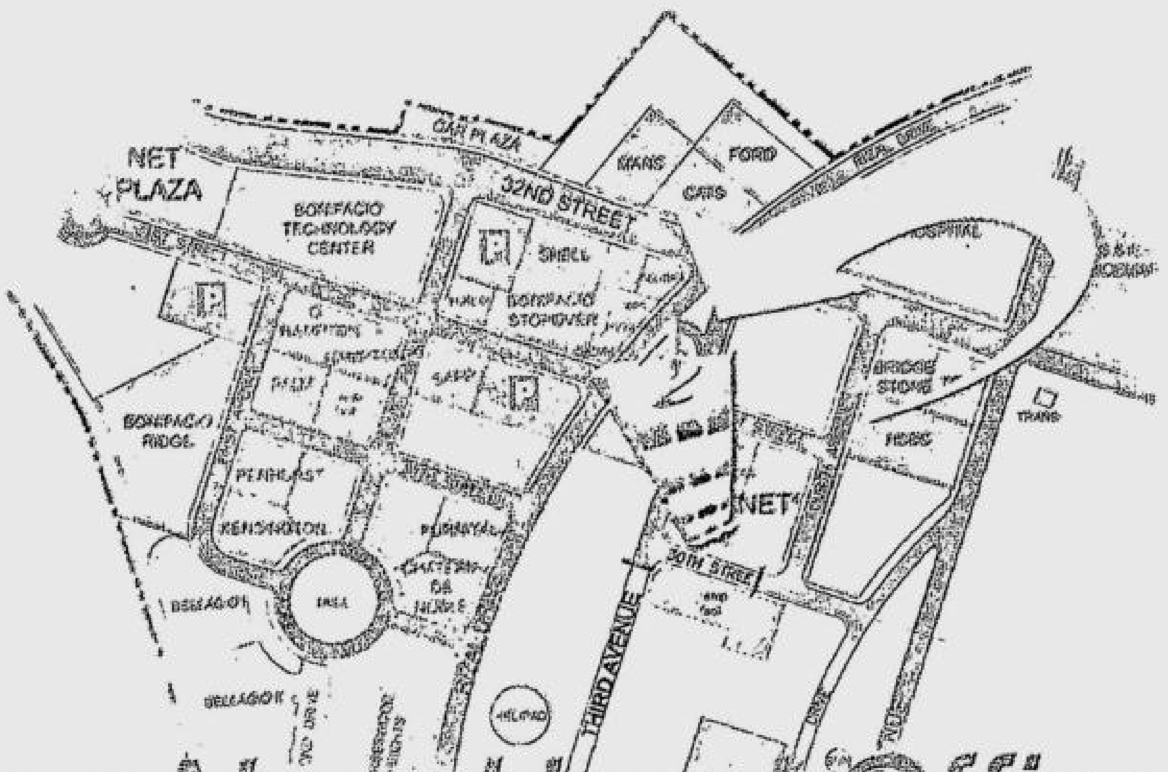

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San Miguel, Toyota win cases vs own workers

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO GOLIATHS OF THE BUSINESS world have won labor cases against their workers in the Supreme Court, which in both instances deleted damage awards to the workers.

In the first case, the Supreme Court said San Miguel Corp. was not required to pay 20 security guards in its Beer Division overtime pay and damages because of its "no time card policy."

According to the court, the guards were classified as managerial employees who are generally not entitled to overtime pay for services rendered in excess of eight hours a day.

"Respondents failed to show the circumstances of the present case constituted an exception to the general rule," the court said in its Oct. 19 decision.

The guards had contested the no-time card policy, under which they were not required to punch time cards and were not allowed to render overtime work, claiming it deprived them of overnight, holiday and night premium pay.

SMC argued the guards were supervisory employees exempt from the Labor Code provisions on work hours and rest days.

It said that aside from not being required to punch time cards, the guards were given a 10-percent salary increase and a night shift allowance together with their yearly merit increase.

The court said overtime pay was not a benefit, junking the guards' claim the Labor Code prohibited the elimination of benefits.

It said the overtime pay had not been freely given, and that the guards were still compensated for services rendered in addition to their regular working hours.

It said that even if the policy caused the guards to lose some money, they were given the 10-percent salary increase and night shift allowance, in addition to the yearly merit increase "to cushion the impact of the loss."

Beer division's right

It junked the guards' claim they were discriminated against, saying the Beer Division had the prerogative to treat supervisors differently from the rank and file.

In the other case, the Supreme Court ruled the strike by workers of Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. in 2001 was illegal for failing to comply with the requirements in the Labor Code for holding such actions.

The strike stemmed from the dispute over whether the Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. Workers Association was the sole and exclusive bargaining agent of Toyota rank and file employees.

The court junked the union's claim the strike was directed at the Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Relations, not the car manufacturing firm, to seek solutions to their complaints.

Work stoppage

"Shrouded as demonstrations, they were in reality temporary stoppages of work perpetrated through the concerted action of the employees who deliberately failed to report for work on the convenient excuse that they will hold a rally at the BLR and DOLE offices in Intramuros, Manila, on Feb. 21 to 23, 2001," the court said in a decision handed down also on Oct. 19.

The workers, the court pointed out, had no permit for the demonstration outside the labor office.

The court said the union had claimed it was trying to protect the workers' rights against abuse by the arbiter, but it failed to show proof of bias. It said the strike was only meant to hamper Toyota's operations.

"What comes to the fore is the decision not to work for two days was designed and calculated to cripple the manufacturing arm of Toyota. It becomes obvious the real and ultimate goal of the union is to coerce Toyota to finally acknowledge the union as the sole bargaining agent of the company. This is not a legal and valid exercise of the right of assembly and to demand redress of grievance," the court said.

Other actions by the workers like barricading the gates of two Toyota plants and disobeying an order from the labor secretary not to worsen the situation were also declared illegal by the court.

In deleting the award of separation pay to 227 union officials and workers who joined the strike, the high tribunal said the workers were shown to have committed serious misconduct and were thus not entitled to damages.

PNP: Mall floor about to collapse

By Allison W. Lopez

THE OPERATION TO RETRIEVE A portable submersible pump from the basement of the Glorietta 2 mall will be rushed because the first floor above it could collapse at anytime, National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Geary Barias said yesterday.

"We need to proceed with caution because the floor above is already unstable. We have to retrieve the pump and subject it to laboratory tests. It was what caused the flooding of the basement," Barias said in an interview at Ramon Magsaysay High School in Sampaloc, Manila, where he was doing the rounds on barangay election day.

Barias said the pump may have had something to do with the explosion in the basement, which initial police findings say may have been caused by a buildup of methane gas.

The blast on Oct. 19 killed 11 people and injured more than 100.

The police would have to rush the retrieval of the pump today after they could not recover it yesterday when Ayala Land Inc., owner of the mall, pointed them to Makati Supermart as the entity that had control over the basement, Barias said.

He said engineers for the mall must accompany police investigators when they go into the basement.

National Bureau of Investigation antiterrorism division chief Romulo Asis said yesterday's scheduled recovery operation was moved to today because there were no barangay officials to accompany investigators.

The NBI is part of the multi-agency task force investigating the Glorietta blast that occurred on Oct. 19.

Asis said initial NBI findings also indicated a methane explosion.

He said four workers had come to the NBI, saying they reinstalled two sump pumps and repaired other equipment in the mall basement up to the day before the explosion.

Asis, however, stressed that investigators were not ready to discount other angles such as a terrorist attack, although there was currently no evidence to support this.

RP wins Unesco board seat

THE PHILIPPINES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO greater global peace and development have been recognized with the country's election to a four-year seat on the Unesco Executive Board, the Department of Foreign Affairs has announced.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said it was "a clear vote of confidence for the country's agenda of development for the benefit of all."

The Philippines received 137 votes, placing second in the Asia-Pacific group. The country's term will be from 2007 to 2011.

Nine other countries competed for the six seats renewed for the Asia-Pacific group. Other countries from the region elected to the board were Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Pakistan.

The Unesco Executive Board comprises 58 member-states divided into six regional electoral groups. Half of the board's membership is renewed at the biennial session of the General Conference, Unesco's highest policymaking body.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus will represent the Philippines on the Executive Board.

Ambassador Preciosa Soliven, secretary general of the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines, will serve as the alternate.

The Philippines has been a member of Unesco since 1946 and was on the Unesco Executive Board in 1999-2003. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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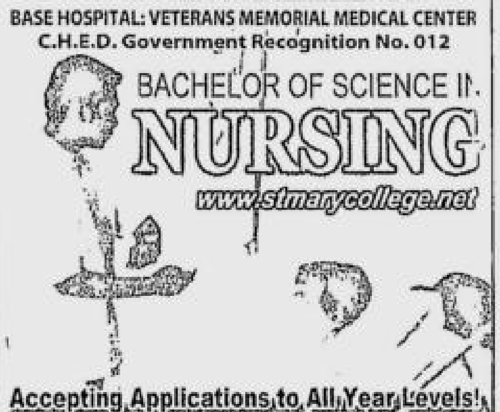

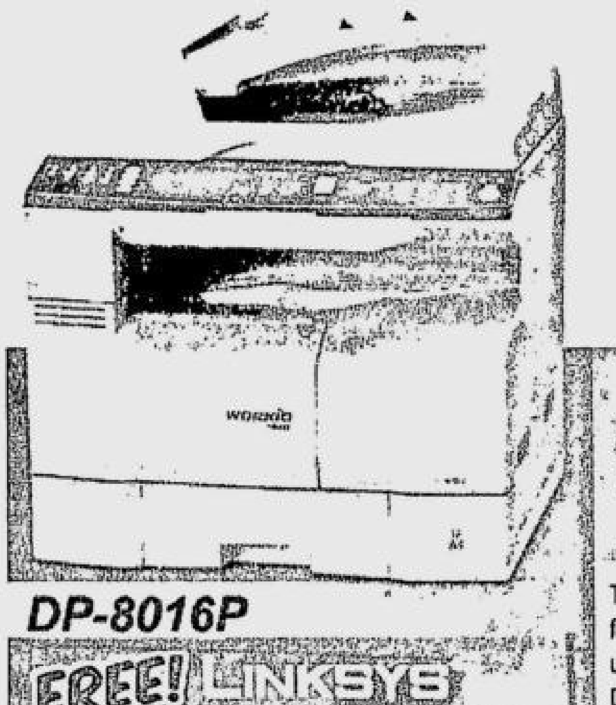

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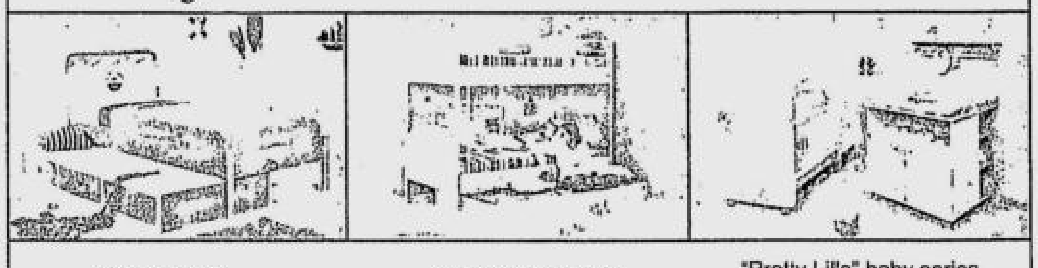

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Antigraft court may confiscate Erap assets

From page A1

er of his civil liabilities even as she extended to him an executive clemency that allowed him to walk away a free man with his civil and political rights restored.

However, Estrada repeatedly claimed that none of the funds were his and that the court could go ahead and confiscate them.

The Sandiganbayan is set to implement today the writ of execution or confiscation on the money and property in favor of the government.

"The court will have to garnish other properties to satisfy the amount stated in the judgment," Bocar said in an interview.

Of the listed items, only the P200 million deposited in the Equitable-PCI Bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation remained intact, he said. The rest of the money have yet to be found.

Money bulk unaccounted

The court will also enforce the writ on the now dilapidated and abandoned "Boracay mansion," even if it had been confiscated by the Quezon City government for failure of its registered owner, St. Peter's Holdings Inc., to pay P1.7 million in real property taxes that had accumulated since 2000.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta, who has been tasked with implementing the forfeiture, said his office would look for the bulk of the money, which remained unaccounted for, in various banks.

He would also look for paper trails that would lead the court to the money, Urieta told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

"But if all else fails, we will have to go after Estrada's other properties he acquired during his term as president," he said.

Estrada's sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal, and mansion on Polk Street in Greenhills could be among them.

But the convicted plunderer maintained yesterday that nobody could touch his "hard-earned" assets.

"What is mine is mine. I will continue to fight it out," Estrada told the INQUIRER yesterday by phone.

He insisted that the account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation was not his and that he just happened to be the chair emeritus of the charitable institution.

"They can have that because it's not mine," he said, reiterating that the government should go after the whistle-blower, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit Singson, for the balance of the P545.291 million in jueteng payoffs.

Estrada said businessman Jaime Dichaves, a fellow respondent in the plunder case, could account for the P189-million commission from the sale of the Belle shares.

Private prosecutors

Vehemently opposing the pardon granted to Estrada, 21 private prosecutors challenged the former President to voluntarily give up his ill-gotten wealth if his acceptance of the executive clemency was "in the best interest of the nation."

"If this is the case, then he should have no problem restituting the full amount declared forfeited by the Sandiganbayan," the lawyers said in a statement.

"He should have no problem voluntarily giving up all such amounts beyond his lawful net worth and not supported by his tax returns," they said.

ESTRADA

The signatories were Arno Sanidad, Joe Nathan Tenefrancia, John Balisnomo, Elmar Galacio, Marichu Lambino, Simeon Marcelo, Bienvenido Somera Jr., Susan Villanueva, Thea Daep-Laurena, Manuel Manaligod Jr., Sylvette Tan-kiang, Anthony Peralta, Rafael Santos, Miguel Silos, Christian Lim, Raoul Angangco, Alejandro Alfonso Navarro, Rodel Cruz, Wildred Fleider, Elma Christine Leogardo and Aida Araceli Roxas-Rivera.

They pointed out that Ms Arroyo had no right to pardon a person who claims that he was unjustly treated by the criminal justice system and that his rights to due process were denied.

"To pardon such a person is to conclude and fall into this very gambit that there has been a miscarriage of justice," they said.

"Is this a conspiracy between two presidents against the interests of the Filipino people—a negation of what would have otherwise been a resounding victory in the Filipino's fight against graft and corruption?" they asked amid suspicion among other groups that the administration struck a deal with Estrada in granting his request for pardon.

World oil tops $93; rise in local . . .

From page A1

cerns in general, on top of which we have the geopolitical news," said Victor Shum, a Singapore-based energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz.

In Manila, Raul T. Concepcion, chair of the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, warned that prices of fuel and other basic goods in the Philippines would start rising in the middle of November because of record crude prices in the world market.

Concepcion said rising prices of inputs here and abroad would further jack up prices of bread, dairy products and meat. He called on the Arroyo administration to draw up a strategy to ensure adequate supply of basic commodities and subsidy scheme for the poor.

"These would help alleviate the effects of rising prices on the public especially this coming holiday season," Concepcion said. "Anyway, the President is an economist ... She would know what the situation requires."

According to analysts, the current price of world oil is closing in on the inflation-adjusted highs hit in early 1980. Depending on the adjustment, a $38 barrel of oil then would be worth $96-$101 or more today.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery rose as much as $1.34 to $93.20 a barrel, a new intraday record, in early afternoon Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, before slipping back to $93.05.

That was still up $1.19 from Friday's record close of $91.86 a barrel. The previous trading high was $92.22 a barrel, set Friday.

US dollar's descent

The US dollar's descent has drawn investors to crude futures as a hedge against the weakening currency and made dollar-denominated oil futures less expensive to people dealing in other currencies, according to David Moore, commodities strategist with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

The US dollar slid to a record low against a basket of major currencies on Monday, extending its broad sell-off on expectations that the Federal Reserve will trim interest rates this week and possibly again later this year

The dollar's trade-weighted index against six major currencies fell as low as 76.842, an all-time low.

The dollar's woes also sent gold to a 28-year high near $793 an ounce, boosting the Australian dollar to its highest levels in 23 years and the Canadian dollar to a 33-year peak.

The euro vaulted to a record high of $1.4426, the highest since its launch in 1999, before retreating to $1.4420 up 0.2 percent from late US trade. The dollar was little changed near 114.20 yen but held off a six-week low of 113.25 yen.

Middle East tensions

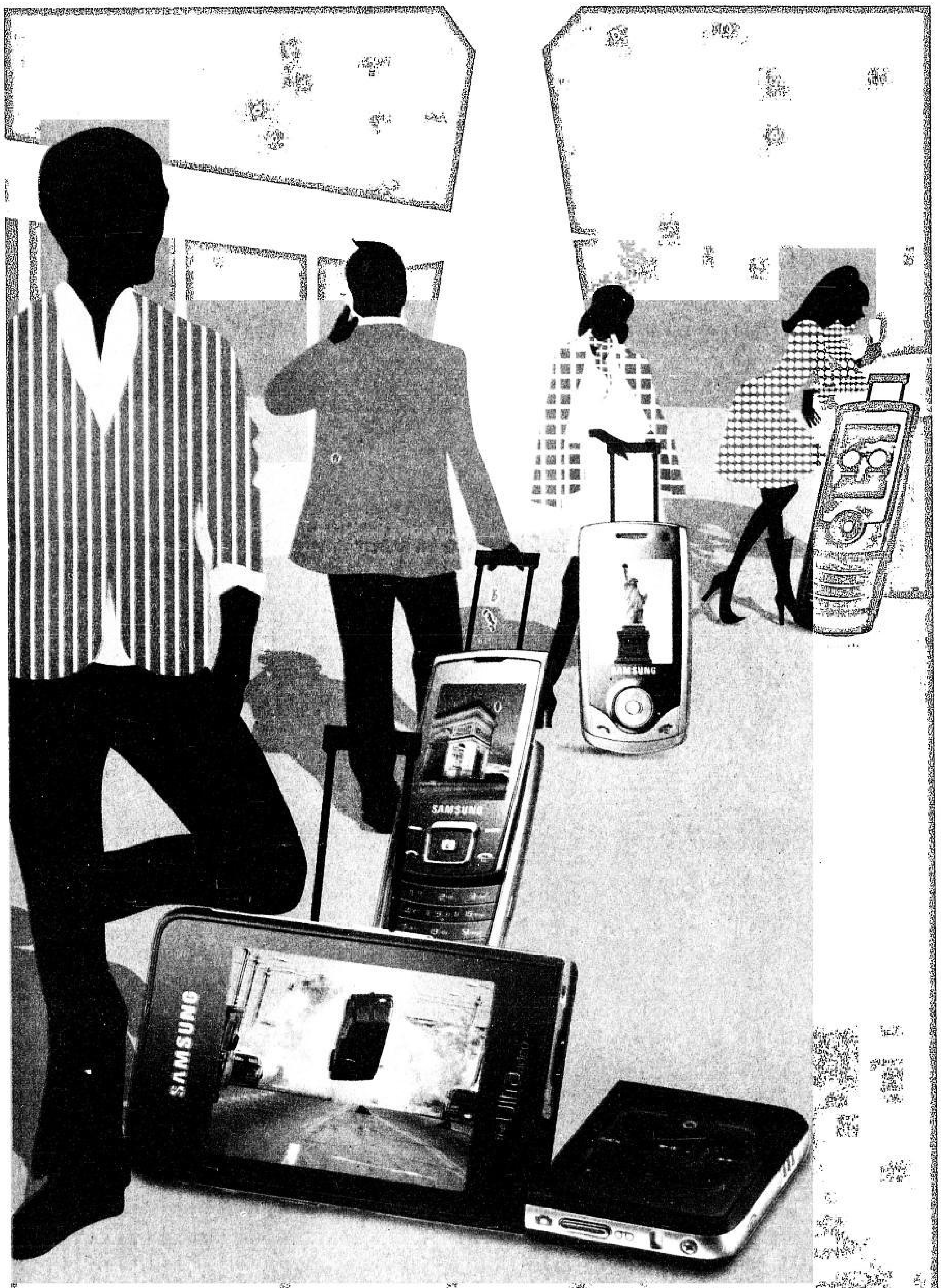
A rumbling of tensions in the Middle East also has worried traders about the disruption of oil exports.

A sharp escalation in fighting between Turkey and Kurdish rebels has brought Turkey to the brink of sending troops south across the border into Iraq, and the United States last week announced harsh penalties against Iran—the world's fourth largest oil producer—in hopes of raising pressure on the world financial system to cut ties with Tehran.

Also on Friday, gunmen in speedboats kidnapped six workers from an oil vessel off Nigeria's coast, the second attack on an oilfield in a week. Nigeria is Africa's largest oil exporter and the fifth-largest supplier of crude to the United States.

US supplies salso seem to be tightening. Oil futures have gained almost $8 a barrel, or 9 percent, since the US Department of Energy reported last week a sharp drop in the country's crude stocks

"The (Energy Information Administration) data last week that showed a drop in US oil inventories has renewed focus on the possibility of tightening oil market conditions, particularly over the northern winter," Moore said. *Reports from AP, Reuters and Ronnel W. Domingo*



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El Shaddai, INC support pardon for Estrada, says Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac

DID THE EL SHADDAI AND Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) lobby for the grant of an executive clemency to Joseph Estrada?

No Cabinet official has come forward to admit that two of the country's biggest religious groups had influenced President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to pardon the convicted plunderer.

But Malacañang admitted late yesterday that the two religious groups "have joined the voices of support for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to grant executive clemency to former President Joseph Estrada."

In a statement, Malacañang disclosed the existence of a letter dated Oct. 26, the day Estrada was freed, jointly signed by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and Iglesia ni Cristo spokesperson Bro. Bienvenido Santiago.

The two leaders said in the letter that "the pardon will significantly help in promoting national unity and political stability that our country and people badly need to improve our economic and security conditions," according to the Palace.

"We hope and pray that our national leaders will take your action as a positive step toward national healing and reconciliation and join hands to move our country forward," they said.

The statement said former President Corazon Aquino was among the first to laud Ms Arroyo's decision, followed by Vice President Noli de Castro, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Senate President Manuel Villar, Speaker Jose de Venecia and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Despite the groundswell of support, however, Press Secretary and acting Executive Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye called on Filipinos to stop arguing on the merits of the pardon and instead focus on looking forward and achieving national unity," it said.

"Let us put this black chapter in our country's history behind us and concentrate on what's really important," Bunye said. "We must now write a new chapter about a new Philippines that is focused on political stability and economic opportunity."

Erap baffles opposition

From page A1

spurred by her own "survival instincts."

In a surprise move, Estrada last week dropped his motion for reconsideration of the Sandiganbayan verdict finding him guilty of plunder. This paved the way for the grant of a presidential pardon and ended six years of detention for him.

But the pardon, which both the Estrada and Arroyo camps said was a major step toward national reconciliation, has prompted anew calls among civil society groups, political and church leaders for the ouster of the President.

Estrada said the poor who comprised the majority of Filipinos should decide who they want to run or replace Ms Arroyo, not the few elitists and the churchmen. He said this position did not mean he was giving up his role as the opposition kingpin.

"I will never stop being in the opposition until we find a new and true leader whose genuine concern is for the masses," he told the INQUIRER a few hours before he left his posh mansion on Polk Street to cast his vote in the barangay elections at the Pedro Cruz Elementary School.

No strings attached

Estrada insisted that there were no strings attached to his release and that he could say whatever he wanted about the Arroyo administration. "I'm a free man," he said.

He also added that he would remain true to the promise he made before the grave of his close friend, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., who had claimed that he was cheated in the presidential election of 2004.

"I will continue to fight for that," Estrada said, stressing that all controversies hounding the Arroyo administration must have transparent closures.

Aside from the "Hello Garci" scandal, which suggested that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 presidential elections, the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard controversy and the suspicious National Broadband Network (NBN) project must all be investigated, Estrada said.

The pardon came at the height of renewed calls for Ms Arroyo's removal and the setting up of a junta to be led by Chief Justice Reynato Puno, following a series of scandals in her administration, the most recent of which being the ZTE broadband deal and the Malacañang payoffs. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Senators' reactions

In a phone interview, Sen. Richard Gordon said that with Ms Arroyo "virtually co-opting" Estrada, her antipardon allies would likely coalesce with civil society groups.

"It's going to be a fight between traditional politicians and upright groups who are against this kind of transactional politics," said Gordon, who insisted that he was independent despite taking proadministration lines in the past few years.

Both Gordon and Sen. Joker Arroyo did not mince words in denigrating the Estrada pardon as an obvious move for political survival.

"Erap is *sui juris*. Nobody fills up his place in prison or politics, but as history shows, leaders will emerge when needed," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Doubting Thomases

"Transactional politics, which is the hallmark of her administration, works well with only those whose loyalty is to themselves. I still believe there are many more from the opposition who think first of the country," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said in a text message.

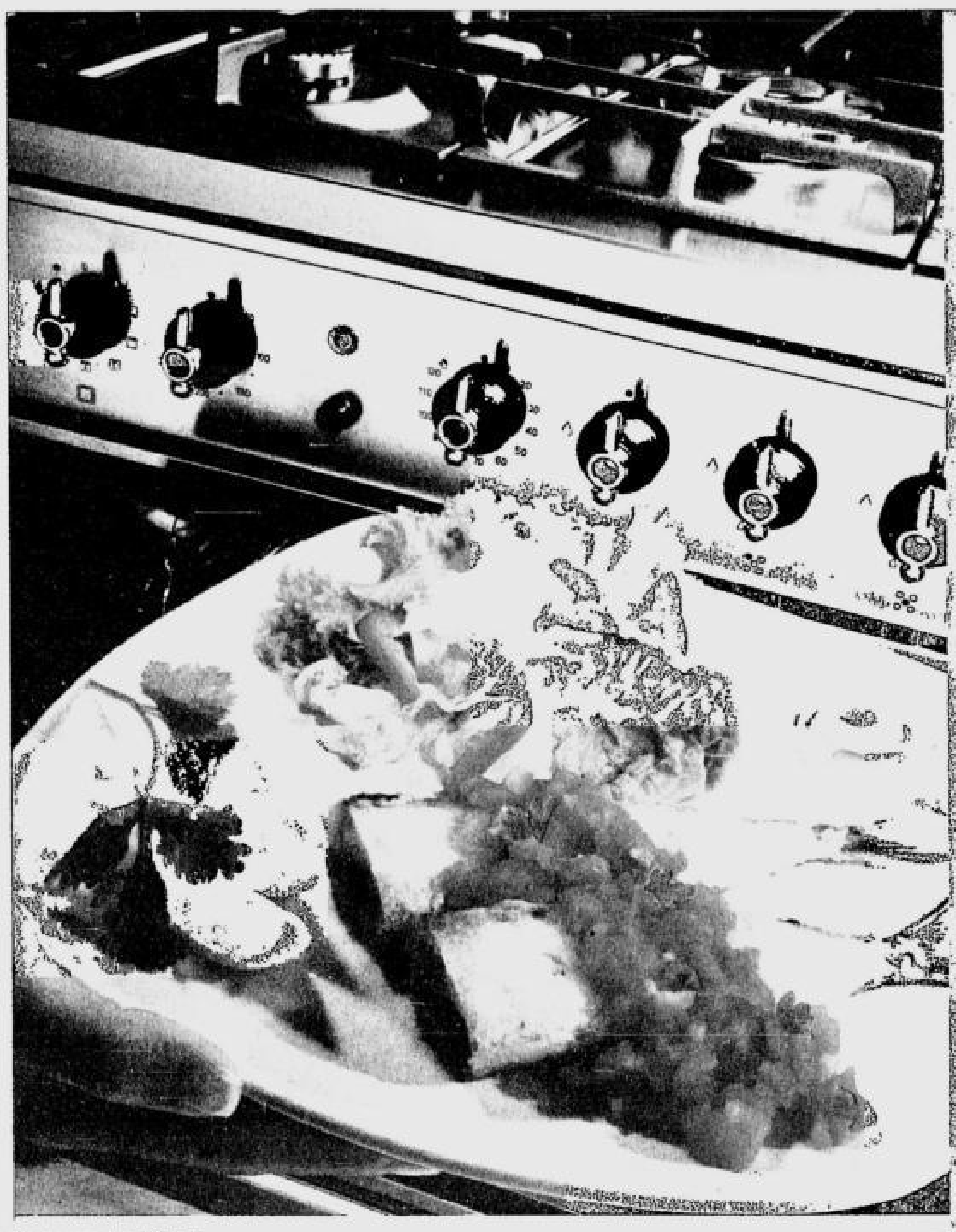
"More than making a renewed commitment to the opposition, he must do more now than what he did while under detention. The burden to prove the doubting Thomases from the rank wrong is heavier and more compelling now," Lacson said.

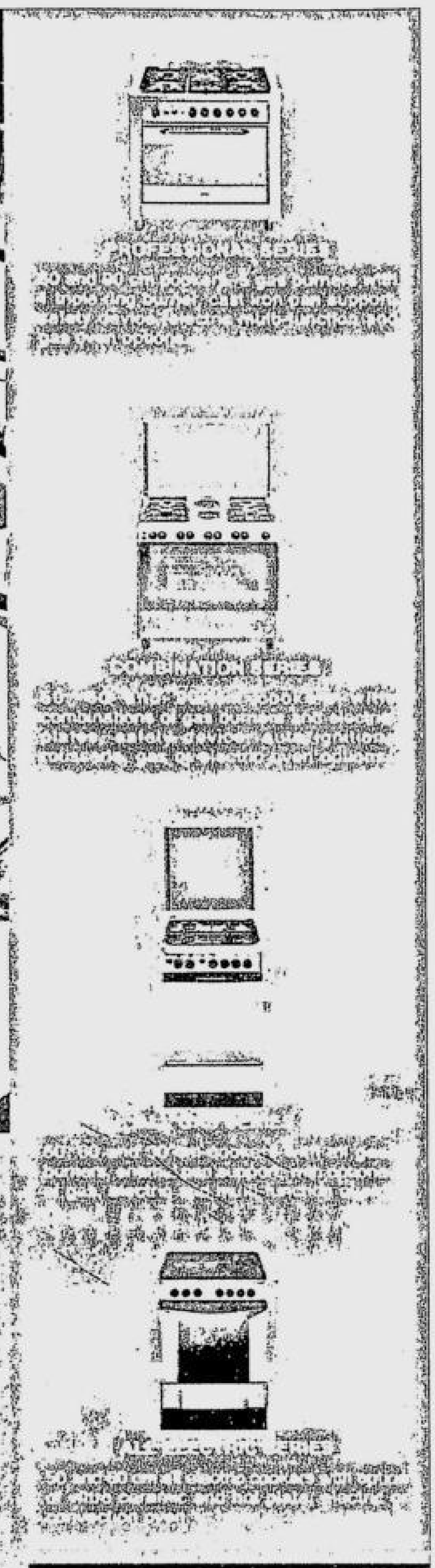
Some leftist groups were cynical over the emerging political detente between the Estrada camp and the Arroyo administration.

"Neither the elite nor the Church nor Estrada himself should be in the forefront of the anti-Gloria struggle for change—the masses themselves should lead it," Sanlakas spokesperson Don Pangan said.

The Black & White Movement, a civil society group seeking the removal of Ms Arroyo, said Estrada had been "co-opted" by the administration.

"He will be hard put to go against the same person who pardoned him," said the movement's executive director, Leah Navarro. *With reports from DJ Yap, Kristine L. Alave, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning*





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Estrada's options

EDITORIALS

TIT FOR TAT. FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA has shown his gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the pardon she granted him. The other day, he distanced himself from calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation, saying that it is "the people—the poor sector which is the largest part of our society—who should choose and decide who they want to run or replace the government, not the few elitists and the churchmen."

This statement does not close his options. What if the *masa*—the poor of whom he claims to be the national leader of—join civil society, the "elitists and the churchmen," in calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation. Will he then join the Arroyo-resign call?

Estrada has often talked about "the national interest." What if his advisers and supporters convince him that the ouster of Ms Arroyo would serve "the national interest"? Would he join a people power movement seeking to throw Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang?

Some opposition leaders have said that Estrada's acceptance of a government position would be a sign that he has jumped over to Ms Arroyo's side. But Estrada has not shown any willingness to accept a position as an anti-poverty adviser to the President. He may be weighing his options in the meantime. And in a crunch, we can never tell if he will join a move to get Ms Arroyo to resign, or possibly, even pressure her to leave Malacañang.

That would be poetic justice.

Expensive oil

ALMOST LEFT UNNOTICED IN THE WELTER OF political news last week was the story that oil prices shot to an all-time high of more than $92 a barrel because of the tumbling dollar, a Nigerian output disruption, tensions in the Middle East and supply shortages in advance of the Northern Hemisphere's winter.

US crude is still below the inflation-adjusted high of $101.70 in April 1980. But rising global crude demand, especially in the United States and China, has driven oil prices upward. There are no signs that the demand will decline, with China's economy growing at double-digit rates. China will need more oil to fuel its red-hot growth.

The current situation may already be the start of what James Canton, chairman of the Institute for Global Futures, called the end of the era of cheap oil. In his book, "The Extreme Future," Canton said energy will be "an explosive battleground in the 21st century, ushering in a new era of either global cooperation or conflict."

He said new global demands will outpace supply within 25 years unless plentiful new sources are found. He added that "once demand outstrips supply, it would be easy to envision a scenario of financial panic and global recession, accompanied by political, economic and social upheaval."

What does this scenario mean for the Philippines, a net oil-consuming nation? To maintain its current growth rate, or even to just survive economically, the Philippines has to invest immediately in new energy sources and learn to conserve energy. These are urgent matters that could mean national survival.

The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal power in the world. In 2001, geothermal generation accounted for 22.2 percent of the Philippines' power mix. If the estimated untapped geothermal resource of about 2,600 megawatts could be tapped, it could reduce the country's dependence on imported oil.

Biomass, solar and wind will be among the major sources of energy in the next decade, accounting for more than one-third of country's total energy demand. The level of these sources is estimated to reach 104.1 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent (MMBOE) in 2012. The country's biomass supply potential, generated by the agricultural sector, could reach 323.1 MMBOE. Being on the fringes of the Asia-Pacific monsoon belt, it also has a promising potential for wind energy and could theoretically support more than 70,000 MW of installed capacity. The country is also estimated to have an annual potential average of 5.1 solar kilowatt-hour per square meter per day.

The global oil supply situation is growing more alarming every year. It's high time the government and the private sector joined hands in preparing for a future where tight supply will raise the price of oil almost beyond our capacity to pay for it.

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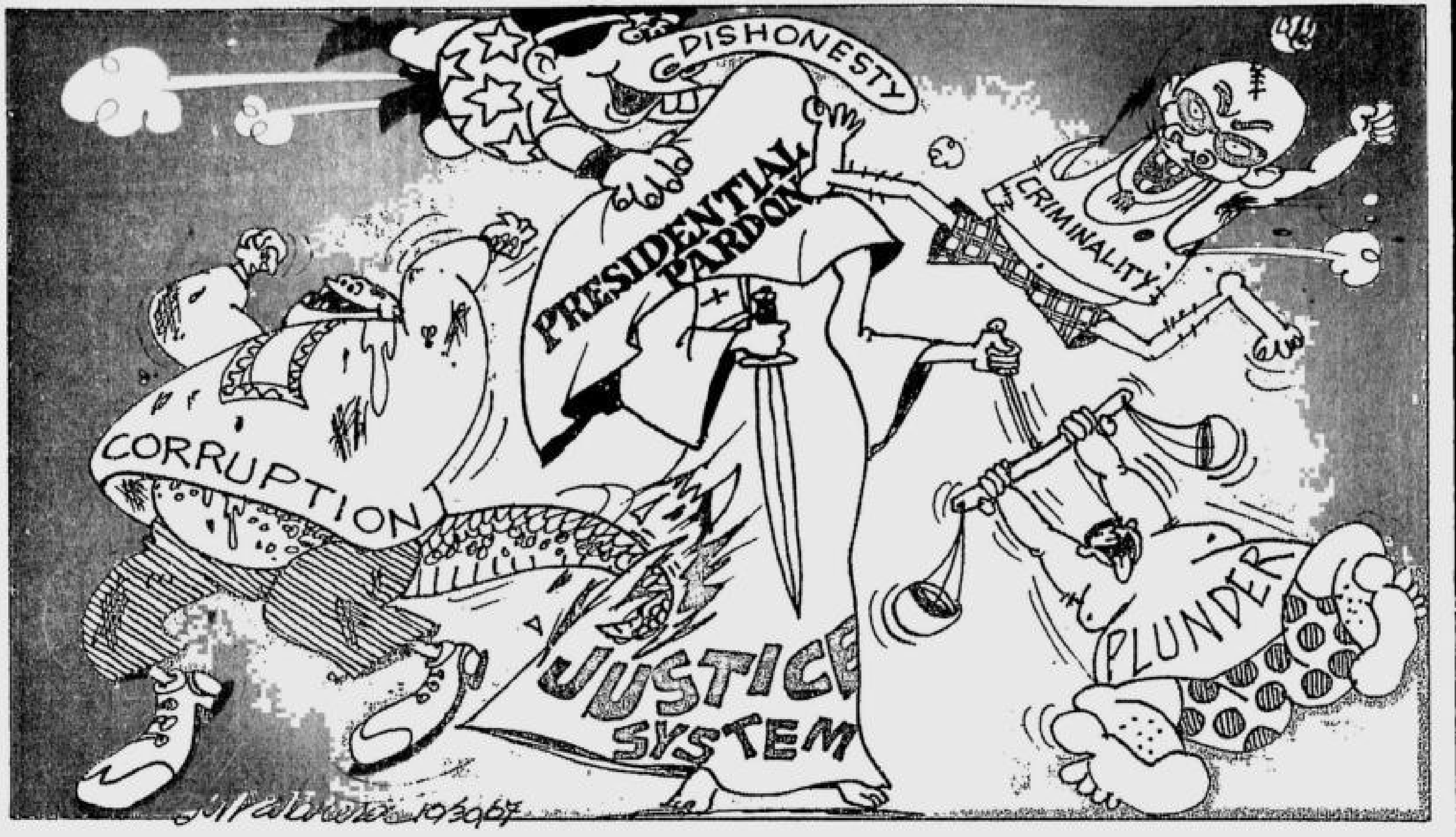

Justice as circus

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MALACAÑANG'S PARDON OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada still roils the nation. Part of the answer may be found in a Spanish phrase: "*prisoneros olvidados.*" Forgotten prisoners. These are ordinary men and women who, like Erap, fractured the law. Thousands languish in jail for offenses from swiping a cell phone to breaking the bar at an all-nighter. Their offenses pale beside presidential plunder. Jose Velarde's bank account showed the dimensions. From an initial P1 deposit, it bloated to P3,233,104.173.13 in less than a year—which was then hastily emptied when the Estrada impeachment case started.

Most *prisoneros* are "people of the short straw for whom it is almost too late," or *mahirap*. Unlike Erap, they won't be home for Christmas. They lack his political wiring and checkbooks. They can't wring equal treatment where "laws are like cobwebs. They snarl small flies but let the gnats get through."

Prisoneros olvidados were uppermost in our minds, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, explained. After Estrada's release, the CBCP asked, "Will others be given the same consideration?"

We bumped into Lagdameo at the Manila Domestic Airport. "Years down the road, this example will disturb us," he mused.

"In 2001, about 35,000 inmates fought for space in jails maintained by the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology (BJMP)," says a United Nations optional protocol on torture study. That has jumped to 69,500 today.

Metro Manila jails alone hold 400 times more prisoners than their official capacity. Until it was moved, Cebu's Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center, which was built for 400, was crammed with 2,600 detainees. "You tiptoed around people slumped every which way," said Sr. Gloria Ando who ministers to prisoners. "This crowding spreads diseases like TB. And the stench…"

Government projects that the population in government jails could reach more than 114,930 by 2010. This far exceeds capacity.

"Extreme overcrowding is the most punishing aspect. [It] brutalizes life," the UN paper notes. Add to that dirty water, dingy toilets, substandard meals, gang war, poorly trained guards and prison administrators, favoritism. "These breed disease, break down discipline and exacerbate tensions… You have a system built for punishment, not for rehabilitation."

Prisoners grab public attention only when there's a jailbreak or riot. "We do not know whether laws be right, or laws be wrong," the prisoners' song says. "All that we know is the walls are strong/ And each day seems like a year/ In a year where days are long."

You wouldn't wish a prison system that is, as the UN study says, "a throwback to the 18th century" even on plunder convicts. But today, over 20,000 children still languish "in so-called reception centers, a euphemism for child prisons," Fr. Shay Cullen of Preda Foundation notes.

The new Juvenile Justice and Welfare law says they must be released. And in Executive Order 633, President Macapagal-Arroyo insisted on fast-tracking implementation. As fast as springing plunder convicts from luxury detention centers?

"The bureaucracy is moribund," Cullen notes. "Authorities have been unable to or are unwilling to look for those that have no parents." Nor are there ready homes for the many children behind bars. "Where will they go? Back to the streets to be taken up by criminal gangs, trafficked into the sex industry?"

These "throwaway children" are, in fact, also *prisoneros olvidados*. Take 9-year-old Jesse. He'd been in a Metro Manila jail for two months before charity workers stumbled upon him. "Almost 50 boys, all street urchins, 7 years old to 14, huddled on the cold dirty concrete floor." Their crime was to be poor and homeless. "Their possessions are few: a pair of dirty shorts, a T-shirt, some slippers." They didn't even have toothbrushes.

"The girls section is totally cut off from all contact with the outside world… One toilet gave off a stench that made the visitors wretch… Bodies were piled on each other in an overcrowded cell that measured about 12 feet by 16 feet. Mosquitoes … leave behind the malaria and dengue parasites."

"They're never free from disease, toothache, hunger, fear, anger and loneliness…. One year ago, nine died in a single period of 15 days," Cullen added. "There was no investigation. But a doctor was called in to stop the dying. And incredibly with little more than dedication, he prevented more from dying."

Estrada assures everyone who will listen that his privileged treatment does not mean he abandoned the *mahirap*. Perhaps Private Citizen Estrada can help humanize conditions in prisons? This is "at the heart of major reforms in the criminal justice system," the UN study notes, and it "could give prison inmates a chance at rehabilitation and a meaningful life after imprisonment."

Close up to *prisoneros olvidados*, he may thank his lucky stars for what he was spared from, by wealth, connections—and the connivance of politicians propping up teetering positions of privilege.

This would call for something like Saul's turnaround on the road to Damascus. There were few signs of that in San Juan on his arrival from his Tanay five-star prison. Food and drink flowed. Bands played. "It was a star-struck media circus," a friend texted.

A fiesta-goer asked, "*May pasok ba?*"

Indeed, "in the absence of justice, fools are kings," the old saying goes. "And circuses pass off as governance."

That's not unity, that's conspiracy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"THE TIME HAS COME TO HEAL THE WOUNDS of the nation," says Donald Dee. "The clemency will leave behind the divisiveness and recriminations of the past."

Noli de Castro agrees: "This will hopefully pave the way for national reconciliation." As does Loren Legarda: "The Erap pardon will send a signal about the healing of wounds." As does still Aldrin San Pedro: "(It is) a move that will heal political wounds."

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself is all praises for herself: "It is out of our sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our *masa* who continue to identify with (Estrada's) personal circumstances. Let us now pray, reflect and join hands to make the Estrada pardon a powerful force for righteousness, compassion, healing, national stability and advancement."

These are more than just platitudinous statements, these are asinine ones.

At the very least, if the pardon of Erap by GMA—the second part of that equation is the critical factor—can ever be a powerful force, it is only for the argument that in our time and place, the guilty can expect to be pardoned, if not rewarded, and the innocent hounded, if not jailed for life. It is testament to selective perception. It is a tribute to selective judgment.

Never mind that its immediate implication is that all other persons convicted of graft and corruption may also avail themselves of pardon. That is for the future, and may always be blocked by some legal ruse or another. Mind only that even as we speak, the winds of double standards are howling before us.

Mind only that even as Erap has been pardoned, Antonio Trillanes remains in jail and continues to be an object of harassment. You can be sensitive to the presumed feelings of the *masa* but be indifferent to the actual preferences of the voters? Whether the *masa* still identifies with Erap's personal circumstances or not is debatable, whether the voters want Trillanes to represent them in the Senate is not. Trillanes won against Malacañang's and the AFP brass' express wishes that he not do so, and the AFP rank-and-file and the voters at large defied them. You want to pardon someone, pardon Trillanes.

That is so moreover because of one all-important reason. Erap has committed pillage, Trillanes has committed rebellion. You may accuse Trillanes of hubris, you may accuse him of being misguided, you may accuse him of being reckless. But you may not accuse him of being self-serving, you may not accuse him of being selfish. His was an act of self-sacrifice, his was an act of idealism. You may accuse Erap of being naïve, you may accuse him of being too trusting, you may accuse him of ignorance. But you may not accuse him of being honest, you may not accuse him of being high-minded. His was an act of venality, his was an act of greed. Whom would you rather pardon, the one who committed a pardonable sin or the one who committed an unpardonable one?

While at this, never mind even Trillanes, mind only that even while Erap has been pardoned for robbing the country blind, political activists continue to be meted death for trying to open the country's eyes. Even if you grant that those activists are all communists—and that is one hell of a grant—what of it? They are at least fueled by idealism, they are at least fueled by a desire to make the country better—as they see it. They are at least driven by youth, which is why they are activists in the first place—idealism has a way of dissipating with age. You'd rather make peace with a convicted felon than a conviction-filled rebel? In fact, you want to free the first and kill the second?

At the very most, what healing of wounds are they talking about? The wounds have not been inflicted on Erap who has cut the poor to the quick by making himself out to be their savior and becoming their victimizer. The wounds have not been inflicted on Gloria who, without gratitude, without grace, and without *gloria* has repaid the people who carried her on the wings of their struggle by stealing their vote, their food and their soul. The wounds have been inflicted on the people.

Reconciliation is not government reconciling with its enemies, it is government reconciling with its people. That is so especially at the end of a tyranny when government is duty-bound to salve the wounds of the people by punishing the guilty and rewarding the innocent. Indeed, that is a hundred times more so when the successor came about not by her own heroic initiative, as Cory did, but by the heroic initiative of the people themselves, as GMA did. Pardoning Erap is not healing the nation's wounds, it is rubbing salt on them.

Indeed, reconciliation is not reconciling with iniquity, it is reconciling with justice. It is not uniting with oppressors, it is uniting with the oppressed. There is only one way to salve the nation's wounds, there is only one way to heal the people's wounds, and that is by justice. That is the only known cure for a prostrate land, torn and bleeding from cruelty. There is only one way to unite a riven nation, there is only one way to bond a divided people, and that is by justice. That is the only known way to revive a dead land, one floating aimlessly in a sea of lie and thievery.

Unity has never been an elusive thing in this country. Even now the people are united in one thing, which is their common detestation of their leaders. You want this country to find a sense of purpose, a sense of resolve, a sense of hope—hell, you want people to dance in the streets in wild revelry—let GMA and Erap disappear in the eddying pool of oblivion. Then will we have a country more united or held firmly together than can be achieved by Epoxy or Mighty Bond.

The people coming together, that is unity. GMA and Erap coming together, that's just a conspiracy.

GMA to meet with Queen Elizabeth II

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TALK OF A JUNTA TO BE LED BY CHIEF JUSTICE Reynato Puno has surfaced once again in the wake of the controversy kicked up by the recent pardon granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to former President Joseph Estrada. This junta business is resurrected by a motley group of leftists, rightists and disgruntled civil society folks whenever a controversy arises, and it's usually precipitated by calls for GMA's resignation in the light of her "inability to govern." In recent weeks, with one controversy after another hounding the administration, noise about a junta has escalated. But I think they are targeting the wrong man to head it. Puno is known as a "legitimist" who holds the Constitution sacrosanct, and it is hard to imagine that he'd be part of any effort to bring about reforms through extra-constitutional means. Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan very decisively told the coup plotters off in the 1989 failed coup attempt, when they were trying to seduce him to take over from Cory Aquino. I believe Puno will do exactly the same.

* * *

But this is exactly the point that sensible citizens, including Catholic Church leaders, are stressing: the formula for a "replacement" of GMA is frightening as it will create more problems than it will solve. Should GMA be forced to resign, which is as unlikely as hell freezing over, the noisy groups won't accept her constitutional successor, Vice President Noli de Castro. They would devise their own leadership formula to suit their interests. I advise the junta-plotters to back off and let GMA finish her term, which has just a little over two years to go, and help her carry out badly needed reforms to sustain our economic growth and make the 2010 elections credible in the meantime.

* * *

It's always easy to do some Monday morning quarterbacking on the pardon issue, just as it's always easier for armchair generals to say a battle strategy is defective after the battle has been fought. "Bad timing" is being raised, but when will a controversial move ever be timed well? Some say perhaps GMA should have waited until Christmas, when prisoners are normally granted executive clemency. Perhaps they are correct: had she delayed her decision, the people would probably have had time to adjust to the idea and the nation wouldn't be so badly divided.

Other critics point out that Estrada remains without remorse. To which pardon advocates reply: But which prisoner ever acknowledges that he's guilty? As they say, in our country every election loser says he was cheated. It's part of our culture to disown guilt.

What's evident is that no matter how she acted on the issue, she couldn't have pleased all the people. The business community is generally supportive of the pardon as it wants stability and sustained growth, but some civil society elements want "justice" to first prevail even if the move is legal. No matter how GMA moved, it would have generated political fallout. US President Gerald Ford lost the 1976 elections to Jimmy Carter because he pardoned from future legal liabilities the disgraced Richard Nixon (who resigned to beat certain conviction by the US Senate).

* * *

The nation is divided over the issue, with senior bishops and the two leaders of Congress batting for it and much of the intelligentsia against it. But most businessmen seem ready to ignore the political debate. I attended the 9th CEO Forum sponsored by the 270-member Semi-Conductors & Electronic Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) in Makati last week, led by the biggest MNCs. The forum's theme, "An Industry Romance: The Electronics Industry Says Yes to the Philippines," said it all. The consensus was that the MNCs have chosen not only to stay and work in this country, but many of them want to expand their businesses for many reasons, most notably, the excellent quality of the local work force and the good business opportunities. As MNCs put it, "The Philippines: the absolute choice, chosen absolutely."

But there was an interesting item in yesterday's Manila Standard Today about a recent report of HSBC. Stressing the need for political stability, the UK's biggest bank here fears that the much-needed legislative reforms to sustain the economic progress of the Philippines could be derailed because of many political intramurals. This is a concern our politicians ought to consider.

* * *

Some women from media had lunch with UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham and his wife Jill at their Makati residence yesterday. Among the things we talked about was the coming working visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to London in the first week of December, after her state visit to Madrid. Beckingham confirmed that GMA will call on Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, and no one else would be present but the two ladies. It appears, however, that there won't be any meeting between her and Prime Minister Gordon Brown since he will be in Belgium for the Nato Summit.

Both RP and UK embassies have been involved with the arrangements for the Buckingham meeting, but I also had it on good authority that Prince Andrew, the Queen's 47-year-old second son, had something to do with persuading his mother to meet with GMA. It seems that during the banquet hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi for the 50th anniversary of the Federation's independence, Andrew was seated beside GMA and that they had an animated conversation. Beckingham pointed out that the prince, who has visited here twice, has been involved in representing British business interests abroad.

What will GMA and the queen be talking about? Plenty, he said. Tens of thousands of Filipinos are working in the UK in such endeavors as theater (Liza Macuja's sister is in the West End production of the "Lion King"), industrial design, cuisine, nursing, etc. On the other hand, the British are into so many things here, too, such as business process outsourcing, mining, tourism, retailing, etc.

Religion and relations

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JERUSALEM—OUR SECOND-TO-THE-LAST DAY in Israel was, literally, a hair-raising experience. It began with a trip to Qumran, a complex on the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and then a dip in the salty, mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea itself. We floated on the water, slathered black coarse Dead Sea mud on our bodies and faces, let the mud dry, then emerged from the showers with our skin soft and supple, "like a baby's."

From there it was about an hour's drive to this city for a visit to the pilgrimage sites, especially the "Via Dolorosa," the route taken by Jesus on his way to Calvary. It was moving enough to be walking on the cobblestones where, we imagined, Our Lord himself trod. But the feelings that rushed through me as we touched the rock where the Cross is supposed to have stood, ran our fingers through the slab where Christ's body was washed and anointed before burial, and kissed the stone where His body was laid to rest are indescribable. My heart was filled with gratitude for this privilege to trace Jesus' final journey on earth, as well as to be given the chance to return to the roots of my Christian faith.

Even Bai Norah Paglas, the only Muslim member of our group, was able to fulfill her religious journey, though she had spent much of the afternoon patiently waiting and watching as we queued before the pilgrim sites. Soon after the group was done, Bai Norah, accompanied by our Israeli guide Ofer Ashkenazi, rushed to the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest places, and, after making her way through two Israeli security checkpoints and being made to prove she was a Muslim by reciting a prayer, she made it inside the mosque, kissing the rock where the Prophet himself had stood.

* * *

BUT this wasn't the most "religious" experience of the trip, at least for me. To mark the Sabbath, which Jews observe from sundown of Friday to sundown of Saturday, we were invited to attend a Sabbath service at the Kehilat Mevasseret Zion synagogue in suburban Jerusalem.

This is a Reform congregation, and as such does not receive any support from the Israeli government, but the members of the congregation raised the money themselves to house their synagogue in a modern, stylish building.

But it's not the building itself that makes Kehilat Mevasseret Zion a remarkable congregation. What makes it so is that its rabbi is a woman, Rabbi Maya Leibovich, the first Israel-born woman to be ordained. She had been helping guide the congregation even as a student, and when the synagogue was completed, the congregation board invited her to be their rabbi. A former English teacher, Rabbi Leibovich spent some time in Russia, teaching Reform Judaism there and helping Russian Jews revive their once-repressed religious life.

As she welcomed us to the synagogue and then presided over the Sabbath service, Rabbi Leibovich impressed me as a warm, motherly person. As she read the announcements for the community, she led the congregation in applauding a couple who, it seemed, had just found out that they were pregnant. This, I thought, is what a pastor should be, "nurturing" her community and caring for them as a mother would. When will our Catholic patriarchs recognize this special quality and start ordaining women to the priesthood?

* * *

WE were handed booklets with English translations of the Hebrew text, as well as Romanized texts of the hymns. We were told that we simply needed to follow the congregants as they stood, bowed and sang, and despite our initial confusion, we managed to join in, even in the singing.

The Sabbath service, I found, is structured along the same general lines of the Holy Mass: welcome and praise to God, repentance, sharing of scripture, veneration. The verses were familiar, for after all we share the same Old Testament roots. As the service wore on, I found deep satisfaction in this "return" to the origins of Christianity, and moved by the beauty and majesty of the Biblical verses, with the congregation "welcoming" the Sabbath as a bride, with lovely graceful Psalms, in the cadence of Hebrew.

The Reform service, we were told, is a more communal, open version of the Sabbath service, which is more introspective, with the rabbi "mumbling the prayers to himself." It struck me that even in this aspect, both Catholicism and Judaism had undergone shifts and divisions.

Afterwards, we partook of wine and special Sabbath bread, and with a few invited members of the congregation, we shared a Sabbath meal, exchanging personal stories and insights. We came back to the silent streets of Jerusalem in the Jewish part of the city, for on Sabbath, observant Jews are not allowed to operate machinery and so there are only very few vehicles on the streets. But we did find many Jews, some of them in the dark suits and top hats of the Orthodox, strolling along, enjoying the quiet and peace of a Sabbath evening.

* * *

AFTER OUR visit to the pilgrimage sites, we met with representatives of the Palestinian community, living in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, and listened to their analysis of the situation and relationships between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and their stories, as well, of life under the "occupation."

What they told us brought another whole new dimension to the picture of life in Israel. I will go deeper into what they shared in a later column, but it seems a hopeful sign that even they were optimistic about the prospects of peace and harmony between them.

Despite his skepticism about the motives of those pushing the Annapolis Summit, Nabil Abuznaid, deputy chief of mission of the PLO Office in Washington, D.C., summed up what everyone was feeling: "Only Palestinians and Israelis themselves can bring peace to this land."

Ronnie Puno and the endgame

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IN REPORTING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR consequences of Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio's disclosure about cash gifts in paper bags, some colleagues in the trade found themselves describing his election victory last May as overwhelming. In fact, it was a squeaker. Father Ed's 219,706 votes edged "queenpin" Lilia Pineda's tally by a mere 1,147-vote margin—less than one-tenth of one percent of the number of voters eligible to vote for governor of Pampanga.

The mistake, the myth-in-the-making, is understandable: It is the afterglow effect at work. I remember that, a hundred days into Fidel V. Ramos' presidency, which he won with the smallest plurality (24 percent) in Philippine history, a survey jointly conducted by Social Weather Stations and Ateneo de Manila found that fully half of all voters remembered having voted for Ramos.

* * *

It does us and the country's democratic project no good, however, to misremember Father Ed's "miracle" victory.

The three main candidates (there were actually three more) each received roughly a third of all votes cast: Pineda had 218,559, the incumbent, Gov. Mark Lapid, had 210,875. If the traditional politicians had come together, Father Ed would surely have lost the race.

That is the exact scenario the priest-governor will face in 2010. Under Vice Gov. Yeng Guiao, the intemperate basketball coach and Arroyo loyalist, and Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, the favored son, the traditional politicians of Pampanga (they were among those who trooped to Malacañang at a politically awkward time to declare their support for the President and to denounce Panlilio for dragging her name into the paper bag scandal) are merely, patiently, biding their time.

* * *

Another traditional politician is in charge of the President's own fortunes. Ronaldo Puno is not only the secretary of the interior and local government (and thus head of the country's police forces), he is also the presidential adviser on political affairs. He chairs President Arroyo's own political party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), and is, as his entry in Wikipedia puts it, "arguably one of the most successful campaign managers in Philippine politics. He supported the presidential bids of eventual winners Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo." (The rest of the entry is copied from a short biography available on at least two government websites.)

* * *

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ramos' leading rival in the 1992 campaign, may not be the only politician or journalist to contest that description. There is no question, however, that Puno is a political animal—in Aristotle's original sense, of a species whose nature it is to live for the state.

But his many years in government service or political work (he also served as Joseph Estrada's interior secretary) have given Puno a reputation associated with another philosopher: Machiavelli.

I am certain he will dispute the following characterization, but his political work can be said to display a signature style. He is fond of the feint; he is a whiz at the use of funds; his trail is followed by accusations of fraud.

He is adept at diversionary tactics (his crucial role in Estrada's pardon, effected at a time of political scandal, has been both recognized and condemned). Political operators say he knows how to use special funds strategically (his own secretary-general in Kampi, Francis Ver, was involved in the attempted bribery of opposition congressmen; his own undersecretary at the DILG just happened to be in Malacañang during the alleged distribution of cash gifts in paper bags). And fraud continues to dog his name (he has been accused of masterminding the so-called Sulu Hotel operations, which reputedly gave Ramos the margin of victory).

* * *

The point of all this: Is Puno the right man to guide President Arroyo in the endgame?

Granted, he can win elections; indeed, his signature working style (marked by those three F-words) works best, and was perhaps first perfected, in election campaigns. But it is a mistake to treat the President's last days in office as though it were only the continuation of electoral warfare by other means.

* * *

A footnote in Austin Coates' biography of Rizal startled me the other day, reaching out from the past to place the Estrada pardon in unexpected perspective.

Coates was writing about the hero's return to the country after completing medical studies and writing the "Noli," and how the liberal Governor and Captain-General Emilio Terrero received him in Malacañang. Coates, a British colonial officer, wrote:

"In a British possession Rizal, a 27-year-old doctor who had written a book, would have considered himself lucky to be interviewed by an assistant superintendent of police. He would more probably have been consigned to an inspector in the Special Branch, and in either case one might regard it as a foregone certainty that the officer would not have read the book. In the Spanish empire at certain levels there was an equality that overrode racial differences, and a more personal kind of government such as was never to be found where the British ruled, though the general effect of British rule was to produce a far juster and freer society."

Was it in fact equality, or seigneurial privilege, the kind that members of the political classes accord each other? It makes sense. The Estrada pardon belongs to a long tradition of personalistic politics, which we may or may not have inherited from the Spaniards. The effect is as Coates predicted: a less just, less free society.

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Prayer for Papa

YOUNG BLOOD

Nicolo A. Odulio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY FAMILY IS SMALL. THERE'S ONLY MY MOM, MY DAD and myself, plus our two household helpers, Yaya Rosa and Jocelyn. But even though ours is small compared to other families, it's still a happy one. But a few weeks ago, my family faced one of its saddest experiences: the death of Papa Floro.

Papa Floro was my grandfather. We weren't very close since he didn't like brats and I was bratty when I was younger. It was only when I was entering the age of adolescence that I began to appreciate things and stopped being a spoiled brat.

Then, Papa suffered a stroke. It was his second.

Our family was determined to help him get back on his feet, but after several years of patiently hoping, what everyone didn't want to acknowledge became clear: Papa Floro wasn't going to be getting up anymore.

It was a sad realization for my parents. Once in a while, I would catch my father suddenly crying because he knew his father's time was nearly up.

As for me, well... I was busy playing video games to realize how grave the situation was. And when I did, it was too late.

One weekend, we got a call that Papa had a fever. Big deal, I thought at first. I was wrong. That night, I had an uneasy feeling that something bad was going to happen. And yet I was too stubborn to go to Papa and decided to just play video games. We were going to see each other the next Sunday anyway since we always visited him on weekends. How stupid of me.

The next day, my mother burst into my room crying. I dropped my Playstation 2 controller, but before I could ask what was wrong, she told me, *"Laro ka nang laro diyan. Wala na si Papa."*

I was shocked. I didn't know what I should do. My mom told me to pray.

The challenge for my parents began. This was the time when their faith was severely tested since they were the ones closest to Papa. Every day we spent at the wake, I could see them both looking exhausted, but they didn't show their sadness. Perhaps they were hiding the tears from the visitors. Perhaps the reality hadn't hit them yet that Papa was gone. Or perhaps they were too busy with the many things they had to do for his funeral.

I also wasn't greatly aware of our loss. A few days into the wake, which would take a whole week, I was already back to my laptop playing games.

However, as the day of his cremation approached, grief slowly grew in our hearts. At the cremation, it reached its pinnacle and fountains of tears came gushing down from everyone, including my mom and my dad—and me.

Several days later, our family was still a little bit quieter and less joyful. My mom and dad were still struggling to cope with the great tragedy. They took refuge in prayers. While the death of my Papa Floro was a great blow to my parents, the prayers they offered to God during and after the wake strengthened their faith and allowed them to accept the reality of his death. And our common experience with death and sadness, strengthened the bonds that bound our family and brought us closer together.

In those difficult days, I composed a prayer for Papa that I still recite until today. It goes this way:

Dear Lord, thank You for letting me see the light, even though I only learned to love Papa after his death. My eyes have been opened to the fact that life is short. Thanks to Papa, I've learned that I shouldn't waste my time on Earth committing sin because I might die tomorrow. Please tell Papa that I'm sorry for not really loving him before his death, and please assure him I do love him now.

Amen.

Nicolo Odulio, 13, is a first year high school student at Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

'Ora et labora'

"It's not enough to say, 'Let us pray.' You [just] don't pray against injustice. You work against injustice. You work against oppression and violence."

—Fr. Robert Reyes on the "very passive ethic" of monastic communities toward injustice. Reyes shaved his head recently as an act of support for Buddhist monks and nuns in Burma

Righteous intolerance

"We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home and abroad."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo, asking Burma to release Aung San Suu Kyi

Wise move

"It's actually a good move for him because he knows that an impeachment case will be very exhaustive, very embarrassing. Now he doesn't have to go through the wringer in the Senate and the House. He's cutting his losses."

—Businessman Jose de Venecia III, reacting to the resignation of Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos

Erratum

In Conrado de Quiros' column yesterday, the quote attributed to Dante Ang was actually taken from the statement of Dante Jimenez. We regret the error.

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Modernization is also a priority

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE calls for the cancellation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and CyberEducation projects.

There are those who say that government should prioritize the more urgent needs, such as education and poverty alleviation projects. We feel that by limiting itself to projects the government would be going against the objectives of modernizing our economy and enhancing our competitiveness.

As a Third World economy, we have the advantage of what economists call "backward linkages"—meaning, without going through Research and Development, we can take advantage of modern technologies already available, to catch up with developed economies. We can also benefit from the competition among First World countries that provide these technologies at concessional terms, hoping that in return they generate goodwill that will benefit them in so many ways, even as they showcase their industries and products for possible sale to other countries—not to mention the profits they could earn from the projects themselves and, going into the future, from the service contracts and sale of spare parts.

We should take advantage of whatever is available in terms of technology, poverty alleviation projects, infrastructure, etc. offered by developed economies. Our concern must be on how to make good use of these projects and how to maintain and operate them well. Needless to say, we must see to it that these projects are not corruption-laden.

In the fight against corruption, there is ample democratic space for all to be heard and public opinion to manifest itself. There is a healthy exchange of opinions from all sides. Let us not belittle our country for this; we must congratulate ourselves instead.

We can attain a growth rate higher than what Vietnam is experiencing right now if we undertake as many projects as possible (for as long as there are countries offering financing, projects are evaluated properly for positive cash flows and positive cost-benefits ratios or social benefits) while we develop the ability to maintain and operate these projects profitably. This way, we won't have to worry about repayments.

Nevertheless, let us not worry too much about whether we will have the dollar reserves to pay these loans; that's more of a concern of the lenders who, we assume, know what they are doing. To get out of our present predicament, bolder decisions are needed.

—GEORGE U. LORENZANA,
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Family first: Unsurprising survey findings about Pinoys

THE FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE "FAmily, not sex, is Pinoys' No. 1 source of happiness" (INQUIRER, 10/10/04) confirms perennial truths and remarkably reveals insights about Filipinos and people in general.

Why wouldn't the family be the No. 1 source of happiness for a Filipino or any person, for that matter? It is in a family where one comes into existence and where being cared for, nurtured and accepted is first experienced; and where one first learns how not only to live with others but also how to help, respect and sacrifice for them as well.

This is why it has often been said that the family is where one learns to be human because it is where we first discover what it is to love and be loved. It is the "school of love" and the "domestic church" as the late John Paul II repeatedly said. The family is the community of union and of conjugal, filial and fraternal love.

If the family is the greatest and most important source of happiness, the inverse is also very true: Family break-ups are more often than not most painful. It is no wonder why so much effort is poured into protecting the family against the perils of divorce, contraceptive mentalities and abortion. After all, it is the basic unit of human society; not just one of society's many institutions; the family is society's core, root and foundation.

Leave the family to degenerate and become dysfunctional, then you have a degenerate and dysfunctional society as a consequence. As G.K. Chesterton once said, "Those who undo the family, don't know what they are doing because they do not know what they are undoing."

Furthermore, it should not be "quite a surprise" why sex was not ranked among the top sources of happiness. It is not that "the respondents were just too shy to reveal their true feelings about sex."

Sex, one of the richest and most wonderful facts of human existence, is a means to an end. Sexuality is "a vehicle to a destination." Sexual pleasure sought out in itself has never been a real source of happiness. How many bed-hoppers and polygamists have ended up in frustration and sadness?

Man is called to a much higher end than sensual gratification and physiological enjoyment. Sex therefore brings true happiness when used as an expression of true, noble and irrevocable love, and as a sincere and total act of self-giving to another. When the sexual act is so and open to the perpetuation of new life, only then does it become truly fulfilling and joyful. Then again, this type of sexual practice can be found only in marriage, the primordial form of the family.

Most likely, most of those who have listed the family as their most important source of happiness must be fulfilled and joyful in their conjugal relationship with their spouse, which is intrinsic and inseparable to family life.

—MARTIN XAVIER LIM QUESADA,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Disgusting claim

I WAS VERY DISGUSTED WITH the attempt of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone to cover up the controversial distribution of "money bags" in Malacañang last Oct. 11.

Why admit that the money came from the League of Provinces of the Philippines only after around two weeks of public and media scrutiny? A text message or a phone call to a news reporter could have immediately put an end to all the speculation. Their silence only added to the people's dismay and disgust with the Arroyo administration.

And this comes on the heels of other scandals hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo—the ZTE deal, the infamous Hello Garci tapes and, let's not forget, the P728-million fertilizer fund scam. The list goes on and this is not because of politics.

I'm a proud Filipino, a nationalist. I love my country and my countrymen.

GMA and Mike Arroyo, please heed the cry of the Filipino people. I beg you, please put an end to all your shenanigans. *Tama na*.

—MARGIO CARILLO,
margio@yahoo.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

MSU's council: Retain Dr. De Leon

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO DR. Jose Abueva's letter in the Sept. 24 issue of the INQUIRER.

We, the members of the Council of Deans, condemn the unfounded and baseless allegations of some misinformed individuals and groups regarding the so-called "severe deterioration of the academic standards" of Mindanao State University-Marawi Campus. Contrary to the allegations, MSU-Marawi Campus has a consistent track record not only of passers but also of topnotchers in national board examinations. In the recent listing of the "Top 20 Schools in the Philippines"—the result of the study conducted by the Professional Regulatory Commission and the Commission on Higher Education—MSU-Marawi ranks No. 13.

The College of Business Administration of MSU-Marawi ranked among the Philippines' top three performing schools, Category C, in the May 2007 Board Examination for Accountants. If at all there is a "slight decline" in its passing rate in a few board examinations, it should not be taken against its acting president, Dr. Ricardo F. De Leon, for that is just a residual effect of the shortcomings of the past.

In its bid for academic excellence, MSU provides most, if not all, its colleges with various instructional and laboratory facilities, making for an intellectual environment that challenges the high order thinking skills (HOTS) of students. The Digital Library and the state-of-the-art Computer Laboratory of the College of Information Technology are among these facilities.

To ensure quality instruction, all faculty applicants are now required to undergo the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) and Computer Literacy screening.

For the admission and retention of quality students, new policies have been introduced, such as the standardized SASE cut-off score of 60 for technology students, thus closing the door on the practice of accommodating protégés of high officials; improved departmental and college qualifying examinations; and strict observance of the Maximum Residency Rule (MRR) for both graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. De Leon is open to consultation with all sectors—students, faculty, administrative staff and the community. His emphasis on good governance, which is anchored on transparency, respect, understanding, sacrifice and teamwork (TRUST), has drawn generous donations for the university's various projects because of the donors' confidence in his leadership.

Yes, Dr. De Leon, with his projects, initiatives and accomplishments, has made an unprecedented impact on MSU in a span of just two years. All of us who are right here in the university campus appeal to the outside world to allow Dr. De Leon to extend his stay in MSU so that the present momentum toward a holistic, integrated development for our beloved MSU will continue until all necessary reforms shall have been put in place.

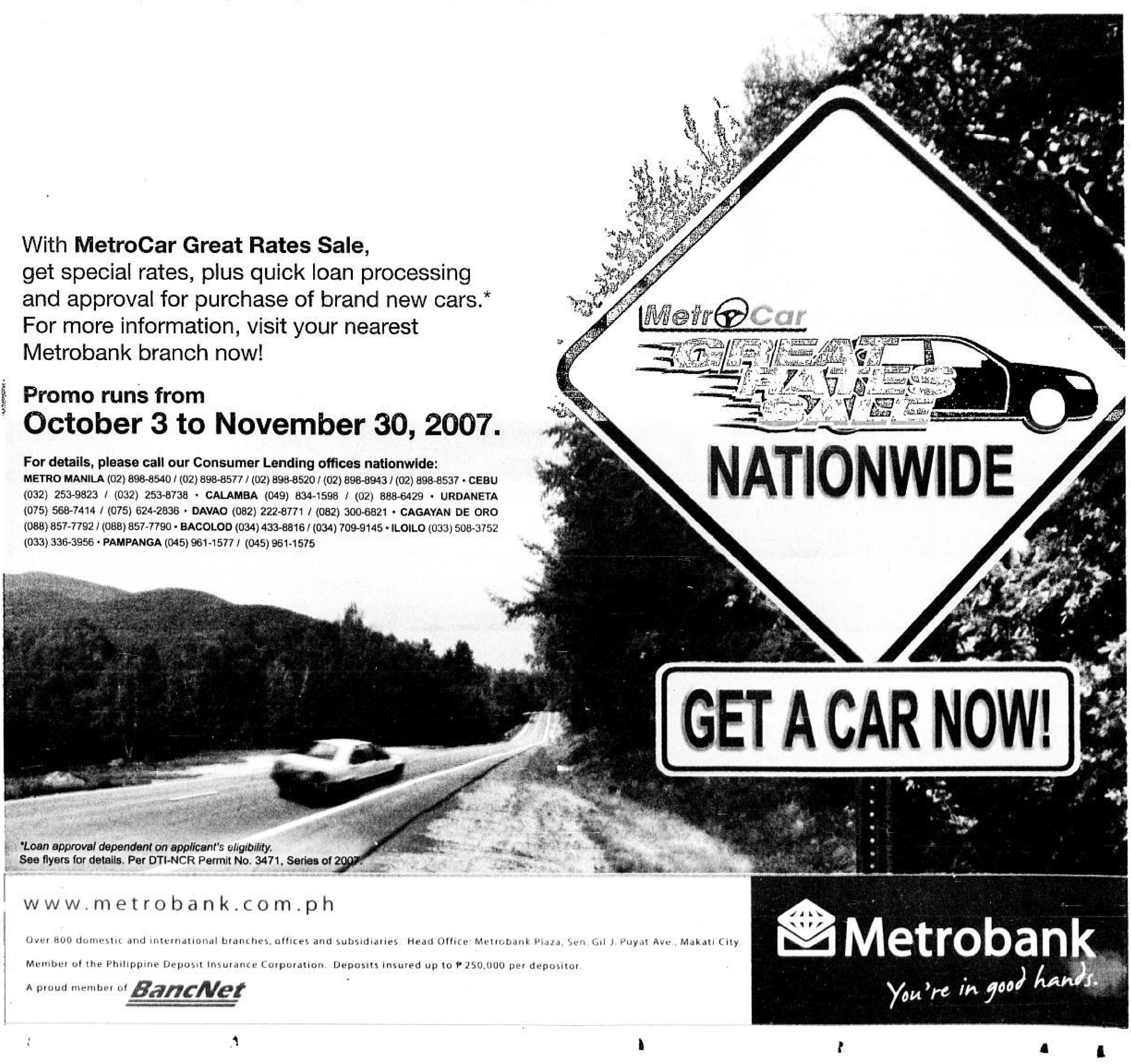
—RAMBE B. RAMEL, CAMAR S. MIKUNUG, POTRI P. RIGA, PENDILILANG B. GUNTING, RODRIGO S. BAID, JULIETA P. LAGMAY, GERARDO A. GAVINE, COSAIN M. DERICO, MINDAMORA U. MUTIN, CECILE B. MAMBUAY, GLENN A. LORENZO, SALIC D. ABDUL, BASARI D. MAPUPUNO, EMMA M. MACARAYA, ZENAIDA L. MICAYABAS, EMERITA P. MOTI, ANISAH M. PANGCATAN, HASAN R. MARANDA SR.,

In gov't, it's a question of how much

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER "On-the-job trainees at DepEd?" (INQUIRER, 10/22/07) I agree with the letter writer 100 percent.

However, the reality is: most people in government decide not on the basis of what's right, proper, better and more useful, but on the basis of how much money will go to their pockets.

—ELMER FABROS,
elmer.fabros@yahoo.com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Mining foes blame firm for fishkill

EVICTED
No one could say how this human skull got to be exposed at the Wireless Public Cemetery in Davao City. But the eviction of human remains from public cemeteries for their living relatives' failure to pay fees has been a growing concern in the city.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

NAGA CITY—REPORTS OF A FISHKILL ARE sending antimining activists pointing their fingers again at a mining operation in Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay, but experts and authorities have yet to determine what caused it.

Town Councilor Wilson Guianan, chair of the council committee on agriculture and fisheries, said he wasn't sure when the fishkill occurred. He said it could have started Oct. 26 and continued the next day.

Rapu-Rapu is host to the Australian-owned Lafayette Mining Ltd., which operates a 180-hectare open pit copper and zinc mine on the island.

Reynulfo Juan, acting regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said he had already sent a team to investigate the fishkill.

But Bishop Arturo Bastes of the Diocese of Sorsogon, a staunch mining critic, quickly pointed to the mining operation as the cause of the fishkill, although he said he had no first hand knowledge of it.

Bastes said a certain Manuel Rangasa, of the office of Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, sent him a text message informing him of the fishkill.

The amount of fish that went dead, Bastes said, was so enormous that anyone could gather 5 kg of fish from the water in 5 minutes. He was quoting reports.

Clemente Bautista, national coordinator of the antimining group Kalikasan People's Network for Environment, said the fishkill was similar to what happened in October 2005, which led to the suspension of Lafayette's mining operations.

Dr. Giovanni Tapang, head of the Filipino scientist group Agham, called on experts to conduct an independent investigation.

Lawyer Bayani Agabin, Lafayette spokesperson and legal counsel, said there was no mine spill because the firm's tailings dam was built to keep tailings off the town's waters.

He also said the tailings dam was about 10 km from where the fishkill was reported in Barangay Poblacion.

He said the dates of the reported fishkill coincided with the days when the mining site was not operational because of maintenance work. *Juan Escandor Jr., Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

2 die in Quezon town fire

LUCENA CITY—A 12-year-old girl and a housemaid died in a fire that gutted a three-story house and bakery in Candelaria, Quezon shortly before midnight Saturday, police said in a report.

The report identified the victims as Sansua Gamo Sandoval, 12, and Clarise Obcemea, 17. A bakery helper, Jacel Saguit, 18, barely cheated death after she escaped from being trapped in the raging fire, whose origin is still undetermined.

Police said the fire started at around 10:20 p.m. in the residence of spouses Andres and Susan Sandoval. The burnt Gamo Bakery, also owned by the Sandovals, is adjacent to the house's ground floor.

The couple was not around during the fire, police said.

The charred remains of the victims were found inside the master bedroom.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Bataan oil spill 'false alarm'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Coast Guard on Saturday declared as "false alarm" the reported oil spill off the waters of Mariveles, Bataan.

Petty Officer Second Class Rolando Rolloda, who led the PCG's search team, and Ricardo Lazaro, DENR chief in Bataan, told the INQUIRER in separate phone interviews there was "no proof" of the oil spill within the 10-nautical mile radius off the coast of the villages of Batangas Dos and Cabcaben.

"It's a false alarm," Lazaro said.

"Negative," said Rolloda.

The suspected source of the reported oil slick, the Singaporean vessel Sigloo Crystal, remained docked in the area on Saturday, Rolloda said.

Lazaro said the team decided to rule out an incident of oil spill because there was no visible thick oil slick and since all four tankers were empty based on the inspection done by the PCG and DENR.

Tonette Orejas with reports from Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

Trader's house raided, guns seized

LUCENA CITY—Operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) based in Quezon province raided the house of a businessman Thursday and found two unlicensed guns and ammunition.

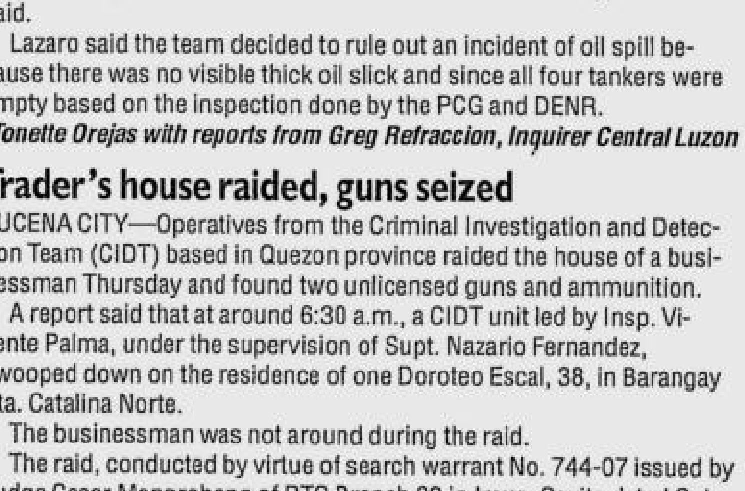
A report said that at around 6:30 a.m., a CIDT unit led by Insp. Vicente Palma, under the supervision of Supt. Nazario Fernandez, swooped down on the residence of one Doroteo Escal, 38, in Barangay Sta. Catalina Norte.

The businessman was not around during the raid.

The raid, conducted by virtue of search warrant No. 744-07 issued by Judge Cesar Mangrobang of RTC Branch 22 in Imus, Cavite dated Oct. 23, yielded one .45-cal. pistol and one .30-cal. M-1 Carbine.

The search was conducted in the presence of village chief Antonio Malabanan and village councilor Luisito Unila.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon



SAMAR AWARD

PHOTO FROM BI

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan (extreme right) receives an award as outstanding Eastern Samareño from a group calling itself Katig-uban Samareños ha Leyte (Kasale) in Tacloban City.

Benguet town gets tough on garbage system

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—OFficials here are bent on penalizing and detaining violators of garbage collection rules in a bid to make the strawberry town's more than 15,000 households segregate their wastes.

Mayor Artemio Galwan led a motorcade on Friday around villages here and distributed flyers that listed as criminal offenses the indiscriminate throwing of unsegregated garbage and piling in collection areas outside of schedule.

Housekeeping

The council passed an ordinance that imposed either a reprimand, fine or five to 30 days in prison for violators.

The ordinance also got strict on littering as violators could end up to three days in prison.

It gave Galwan the power to reprimand first time litterbugs.

"Our message is simple. Housekeeping, whether at home, in school, or in the workplace, has to reach a higher level of attention. Our residents must be a part of the solution and not the problem," he said.

He said garbage has to be segregated right in the homes into recyclable, biodegradable and residual wastes.

Iron hand

The town decided to use an iron hand on waste segregation violators following the completion of its P49 million ecological solid waste management facility in Barangay Alno.

The facility, which sits on a 9.8-hectare property, has been upgraded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from a controlled dump to a Category 2 sanitary landfill.

Lessons

The facility, the first in the Cordillera, hosts a materials recovery facility (MRF) and a bioreactor component that could convert biodegradable garbage into compost fertilizer.

Benedict Pineda, the town's engineer, said the Category 2 classification meant that only residual wastes should be brought to the facility for processing.

"The people should then learn how to segregate their wastes," he said.

Romeo Lopez, the town's development officer, said La Trinidad has nine trucks to collect garbage on assigned dates.

The town disposes of 80 tons of garbage daily. Thirty tons are vegetable trimmings that come from the vegetable trading post here while the rest are mixed household and industrial wastes.

"We will continue to educate our people. We will give them 30 days to know the rules. Then we will enforce the ordinance," he said. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Traders corner rice supply

PILI, CAMARINES Sur—Traders here have cornered all the rice produced in Camarines Sur, according to the manager of the National Food Authority (NFA) here.

Edmundo Enriquez, provincial NFA manager, said traders were buying between P12.30 and P12.50 a kg of *palay* while the government's subsidized buying price was only P11 per kg.

"This harvest season, 100 percent of Camarines Sur's *palay* production were sold to traders," Enriquez said, adding that the farmers preferred cash payment.

Without stocks of locally produced rice, the NFA here relies on rice importation to achieve rice sufficiency.

Enriquez revealed that as of Oct. 23, the rice stock inventory of NFA Camarines Sur was 5,000 bags. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Lahar-buried village has only 15 voters; all cast ballots

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—ONLY 15 people live in what is believed to be the smallest barangay in the country. But elections remain relevant to them even if the rest of their village has disappeared under tons of lahar.

And all 15 of them voted in yesterday's nationwide barangay polls.

They are the hardy villagers of Barangay Concepcion in Bacolor, Pampanga.

With only a black, meek dog for company, Pedro de la Cruz and Jun Sacro were by their twosome when the INQUIRER visited them at noon yesterday.

They were keeping watch over their lahar-buried village after all their 13 village mates had left for the town proper, 15 kilometers away, to cast their votes.

Population growing

"We can only leave and vote when our village mates return. There will be no one to guard the village if we also leave," De la Cruz, 48, said in the dialect.

He and Sacro, 32, sat before two large mats of newly harvested grains of C-18 and Dinorado rice varieties that were being dried under the sun.

Ten native huts and two concrete houses stand in what used to be the center of Concepcion.

In resettlement areas

A census in 2000 had put the population of the village at 10. Now they total 15, said De la Cruz.

"We grew a little," he said.

De la Cruz and Sarco returned to Concepcion in January to rebuild their farms.

In reality, Concepcion has 1,263 voters, including De la Cruz and Sacro. But most have dispersed to seven resettlement sites in Mexico, Magalang, San Fernando, Bacolor and Arayat.

Still, they choose to be registered in their original barangay of Concepcion.

"Mother barangay," was how Asuncion Franco, 45, calls Concepcion. She now lives in the Madapdap resettlement area, having no means to resume farming or even build a hut in the old village.

Outnumbered by chickens

Whether they are back in Concepcion or not, they share common polling precincts, all located at the Bacolor Central Elementary School.

De la Cruz said his fellow villagers did not have lands to till at Madapdap, where the government transferred them.

"Back then, life was easy. There were many crops. It is difficult now," he said. "I'm still hopeful because there is land to till anyway."

Chickens, counting at least 6,200 in a poultry farm nearby, outnumber the settlers in Concepcion, according to Jose Tiro, the farm's manager.

But politicians have not ignored the village. Candidates pass by, posting sample ballots, campaign streamers and leaflets.

The village is hidden from view by wild grasses and sugarcane plantations.

Over 68% voter turnout, says Comelec

From page A1

Sarmiento reported no major violence or disruptions.

"We hear of vote-buying here and there, but it's not a major trend," Sarmiento said.

Despite three deaths and a failure of election in some areas in Mindanao, the PNP said the elections were "very peaceful."

Razon told reporters that a total of 48 election-related violent incidents (ERVIs) had been recorded since the election period began on Sept. 29.

Of this number, the PNP recorded 25 deaths as of 4 p.m. yesterday. Of this figure, six were candidates for barangay captain, two *kagawad* candidates, seven incumbent barangay officials three government officials and seven civilians.

A total of 22 people were also reported wounded.

Thanks to PNP, AFP

Razon based his "peaceful" assessment after comparing figures from the 2002 elections.

According to the PNP's records, 144 people died while 69 were wounded in 159 incidents in the 2002 elections.

Razon credited the low number of casualties to the deputization by the Comelec of the PNP and units of the Armed Forces for security operations, the work of nongovernment organizations and other stakeholders and the "vigilance and alertness of the public."

500,000 teachers

"Overall, the turnout of voters is comparatively higher than in 2002. The situation was under control by the AFP and PNP," Borra said.

The Department of Education set aside a P30-million emergency fund for the country's 500,000 public school teachers who served in yesterday's polls. The fund was intended for poll duty-related deaths or injuries involving teachers and other education personnel.

The DepEd also requested for the allocation of an additional P2 billion for the salary of teachers who manned the polling precincts. Only P930 million had been set aside by the Comelec for the purpose.

Teachers were entitled to a P1,000 compensation for each day of poll duty. Teachers handling additional SK polling precincts will get an additional P500.

A failure of election was reported in some villages in Sulu, Cotabato City and Eastern Visayas because of the presence of armed men that prevented election officials from reporting in these areas.

Incidents of harassment, insufficient official ballots, missing names, flying voters and vote-buying were also reported in some precincts.

A reelectionist village chair, Basher Maharam, was shot and killed inside a polling precinct in Isabela City in Basilan, police said.

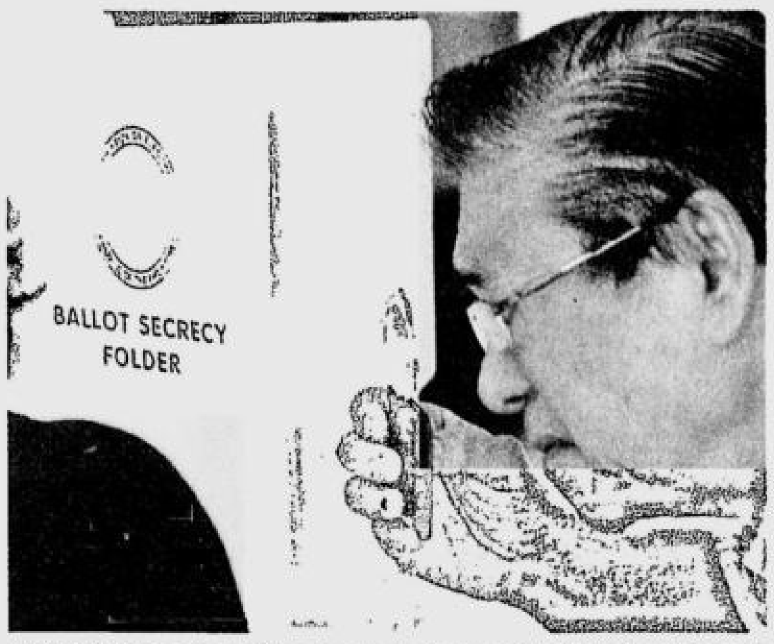
Ms Arroyo No. 8 voter

Another reelectionist village chair, Hadji Alih Salasin, was shot and wounded by armed men believed to be followers of his opponent near a school in Lamitan.

An Army soldier was shot and killed allegedly by a policeman after a quarrel inside a precinct in Talipao, Sulu.

Arson was suspected in the burning of a school building in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, at 4 a.m. Monday, three hours before precincts opened.

Instead of declaring a failure of election, the board of election inspectors held the balloting in other school buildings in the town.



A VOTER uses a magnifying glass to better read the list of candidates in a polling precinct in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Police said supporters of a candidate for barangay chair in the area could have started the fire.

In Pampanga, Ms Arroyo cast her vote at Precinct No. 1 at the Lubao East Elementary School.

She was accompanied by her godson, Mayor Dennis Pineda, president of the Pampanga Mayors League (PML).

Ms Arroyo, who arrived in a black Mercedes Benz at 9:25 a.m., waited for 15 minutes for her turn because she was the eighth voter in line.

Violence, harassment

Writing behind a secrecy folder, she referred to a *codigo* (prepared lineup) of her favored candidates, spending two minutes to fill up the official ballots.

She left at 9:50 a.m. and did not give any statement to reporters.

Police arrested six men caught putting up campaign materials at the Dau Central Elementary School in Mabalacat town.

In Cagayan, a policeman was killed after passengers of a van that drove past a police checkpoint in Alcala town shot him on Sunday night.

Police said PO1 Jackson Casil was hit in the chest. Three suspects were arrested, one of them a candidate for village chair in Barangay Afusing Daga.

In Nueva Ecija, a resident was shot and wounded by a candidate in Laur town on Monday morning.

Police said Leonardo Bitor, a reelectionist council member of Pinagbayanan, allegedly shot Benigno Fronda.

In Abra, a candidate for village chief in the capital Bangued town was shot and wounded by a group of men on Sunday night.

Vote-buying

In Bulacan, police were investigating a certain Colonel Salem who entered a polling precinct in Barangay Lawa, Meycauayan with four police escorts at past 3 p.m.

Incidents of alleged harassment of voters were also reported in Malolos, Meycauayan, Bustos and Marilao.

While vote-buying remained rampant in the Visayas, a town in Bohol succeeded in implementing a covenant against vote-buying.

Some 560 candidates for barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan in Maribojoc signed a covenant to eliminate vote-buying.

In contrast, vote-buying was reported across the Visayas, with voters reportedly getting from as low as P10 and as high as P1,500.

An election official in Bacolod City said vote-buying, which started on Sunday, was reported in almost all villages.

In Eastern Visayas, reports of sequestering of voters also marred the SK elections.

Some parents in Tacloban City and in other parts of Leyte and Samar complained that persons identified with politicians brought their children in "holding areas" on the eve of the elections without parental consent.

Failure of election

In Eastern Visayas, election officials declared a failure of election in eight villages due to the presence of armed men.

In Sulu, a failure of election was declared in 14 villages in the towns of Luuk, Indanan and Talipao and in the whole town of Panglima Estino in Sulu because some barangay election officials did not show up for fear of being caught in the crossfire between armed supporters of candidates.

Officials said at least 10,000 registered voters failed to cast their ballots in Sulu.

In Midsayap, North Cotabato, voting in the village of Mudsing was briefly interrupted at around 8 a.m. when supporters of a candidate fired their rifles.

Police said no one was reported hurt but the gunfire sent voters to different areas to seek cover.

The gunmen fled. Voting resumed shortly after police and military personnel arrived in the village.

In Davao Oriental, fighting between communist rebels and government troops broke out in the town of Lupon on Monday afternoon.

Police said New People's Army rebels were campaigning for their candidates in Barangay New Visayas in Lupon town.

In Cotabato City, a failure of election was declared in nine polling precincts after members of the board of election teller did not show up.

In Koronadal City, a power outage on Sunday delayed the release and delivery of ballot boxes and other paraphernalia to voting centers. *Reports from Jerry Esplanada in Manila; Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas, Cesar Villa, Carmela Reyes and Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon; Villamor Visaya Jr., Desiree Caluza, Vincent Cabreza, Delmar Cariño, Estanislao Caldez, Peter La. Julian, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Marlon Luistro, Redempto Anda, Ephraim Aguilar, Delfin Mallari Jr., Romulo Ponte, Bobby Labalan and Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Kit Bagaipo, Carla Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr., Jhunnex Napallacan, Jani Arnaiz, Joey Gabieta and Vicente Labro, Inquirer Visayas; Julie Alipala, Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Allan Nawal, Ryan Rosauro, Ferdinand Zuasola, Chris Panganiban and Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao; and AP*

RP firm wins award for 'binalot' meals

From page A1

in a poor farmers' community in Laguna, a neighboring province of Metro Manila.

As it continues to make good business through its 35 outlets, mostly inside malls in Metro Manila, the young company is starting to gain international recognition.

Out of the box

United Parcel Service (UPS) has named Binalot the recipient of a $10,000 special prize for a small business exemplifying "end-to-end customer service," the UPS theme for its centennial celebration this year.

In the UPS "Out of the Box" Small Business Contest, which was opened to the Philippines this year, Binalot bested entries from China, Singapore and other countries in the Asia Pacific. It was the first Filipino company to win the prize.

"The UPS prize was a gift from God," Rommel T. Juan, president of Binalot Fiesta Foods Inc., said in an interview. "We didn't know it was gonna come. We didn't expect to win the prize."

Dahon program

He joined the online contest months ago, and had all but forgotten about it until he got a call from UPS. And he believed its use of banana leaf from a poor community clinched the prize for Binalot.

"Why did we win? Because of the Dahon program. It's end to end. We get it directly from the farmers, bring them to the commissary, deliver them to franchisees, and the end customers," said the 35-year-old marketing management graduate from De la Salle University.

Besides, helping the poor proved to be a "good karma," he added. Rommel left yesterday for the United States to receive the prize in Atlanta, Georgia, where UPS is based.

Since its small delivery operations in Makati City began in 1996, Binalot has served the meals in banana leaves harvested from different communities.

Typhoon 'Milenyo'

But it was only in January that Binalot decided to get its supply from a community of poor banana farmers at the foot of a mountain in Laguna as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR).

"When Typhoon 'Milenyo' struck [in September 2006], it wiped out our regular supply of banana leaves. So we were forced to source somewhere else," Juan said.

Soon after, Binalot found a viable source in a banana plantation in Laguna, and developed a CSR program, "Dangal at Hanapbuhay para sa Nayon" (Dahon) or leaf, to help farmers earn income right in their own backyard.

Proper harvesting

Binalot personnel trained the farmers from 29 families on proper harvesting, trimming and sanitation, equipped them with tools, and set up a modest workplace for them.

So each day, the men would head for the clumps of banana trees at dawn to cut leaves, and haul these by horse to the workplace where their wives would clean and trim them according to Binalot's specifications.

The company buys banana leaves at P60 to P70 per bundle from the farmers thrice a week, providing a regular livelihood for them, weaning them off idleness and boosting their confidence.

"The men are earning P300 a day and the women, P200," Juan said. "Just imagine how a crisis (damage wrought by Milenyo on Binalot's supply) turned into something good."

Until Binalot came into the picture, most of the farmers earned income by selling their banana leaves to small traders at low rates, and mainly subsisted on remittances from children working abroad.

Less trash

The leaves also meant less trash for the company.

By Juan's reckoning, the company has set itself apart from the rest, not only because of its "eco-friendly" packaging and "truly Pinoy" meals, but also because of its Dahon program.

"This CSR is one program that our whole organization is proud of. We are 35 outlet-strong. We are a truly Pinoy fast food, but it's different when you're able to help others," he said.

Through this program, Binalot shattered the misconception that only corporate giants could come up with a good CSR program. "They always thought it was the domain of Ayala, of Shell and of big companies. We're a testament that it's not," he said.

After initially working for the family-owned MD Juan, which exports jeep bodies and parts, Juan and his older brother decided to start their own food business in 1996.

And their childhood memories of family outings helped shape it.

Binalot begins

In one of their talk, he told his brother: "Do you remember when we used to go to Alfonso, Cavite? [We had a farm there with a river in the back. We'd go there on weekends. My mom would wrap our food in banana leaves] So I told him, the food was more delicious that way. Why not offer it in Makati?"

Thus began Binalot (which means wrapped).

After tapping Aileen Anastacio, a chef-friend of the Juans', to do the cooking for which she got good reviews, the brothers started delivering home-cooked Filipino favorites in banana leaves to offices from their condominium unit in Salcedo Village in Makati.

"Since it was residential, not a commercial area, we didn't tell people where we were based. When customers called to ask, we'd just tell them we're in Makati. But neighbors would find out and come knocking," the younger brother said.

There came a time when the Juan brothers had to move out when the other tenants started complaining of the smell of *adobo*. But they soon found spaces in Greenbelt mall and on Jupiter Street.

The initial offerings were rice topped with Filipino favorites *adobo, tapa, bangus, tocino* and *longanisa*, garnished with pickles, salted egg and tomato.

Financial crisis

Months after the financial crisis hit Asia in 1997, the Juan brothers thought of closing shop after their customers started bringing home-cooked lunch to work. Delivery sales dropped sharply.

Then came an offer from Shangri-La mall in Mandaluyong City that it has a space for Binalot in its food court.

"Our mini-board met, and I said 'Let's go for broke,'" Juan recalled. "When we opened in Shangri-La [in 1998], it was an instant hit. We were alive again. We realized the sale was constant unlike in delivery service."

Exponential growth

After gaining confidence, Binalot opened more outlets in other malls, mostly from its annual earnings, and hired more people to run the growing business. In 2003, it went into franchising.

"That's when we started to grow exponentially," Juan said.

Over the years, Binalot's menu has evolved, too. It now serves varieties like the funny-sounding Tapa Rap Sarap, Bistek Walastik, Bopisticated, Pride Tilapia, Sisig na Makisig, My Dinuguan & Only, and Love Me Tenderloin Tips in all its outlets.

With the $10,000 prize, Juan and his partners plan to set up a foundation or a social enterprise, and develop other banana products, like chips and cakes.

"If we have things we can develop, we'll start with them (farmers)," he said. "What we want to develop is an industry for them that's related to our business."

Medic reveals Japan war atrocities in RP

From page A1

troversy as historical memory remains a point of simmering friction between Japan and the countries it invaded. Nationalist Internet sites launched a campaign branding Makino a liar.

Makino said what he experienced was not systematic atrocity, but rather a glimpse of the soldiers' desperation during the disorganized last-ditch struggle of a nation on the verge of defeat.

On a deserted frontline

It was one year before Japan's surrender when Makino landed in Mindanao in August 1944. He was assigned as a medic to the 33rd Coast Guard squad of about 20 soldiers who were in charge of detecting enemy airplanes.

His squad joined a landing force of some 1,500 troops on the fabled Yamato, once the world's largest battleship which US bombers sank later in the war.

"The Yamato was such a huge ship that it could not easily find a suitable port," he said. "So the ship anchored in the middle of Manila Bay and we dispersed to a variety of destinations in the Philippines."

Soon after arriving at the Japanese military base on the Zamboanga Peninsula on the western tip of Mindanao, Makino found himself and his unit cut off from headquarters, with the situation growing worse by the day.

Makino's unit received no military supplies or orders, let alone medical packages.

The main enemy facing the Makino's small squad were Moro guerrilla bands, which constantly threatened the Japanese station, he said.

"We were told the Moros were such cruel people that they attacked enemies with spears, and we actually rescued some people assaulted by them," Makino said. "I was told many times I should not walk in the palm tree jungle after dark."

Beheadings

Naturally, Makino said, almost all the hostages that his unit captured were Moros. "We were supposed to keep them alive in captivity, but it was no problem if we disposed of them, in the beheadings the Japanese have become infamous for."

He remembered at least 50 hostages being killed, "including those who got this," he said, moving his hand to imitate a sword cutting off a head.

The frail old man recalled that many other hostages were kept alive as human guinea pigs for his superior combat doctor, who wanted to show young medics like himself how to conduct surgical operations.

"We first anesthetized them—we usually used injections or oxygen gas," he said. "Then they passed out in a few seconds."

The combat doctor would tell Makino to watch as he sliced open a hostage's stomach, a scene that Makino says made him so ill he couldn't eat or drink for days afterward.

"When cooking chicken, the doctor would get amused and say, 'Oh, this is just like human intestines,'" he said.

But Makino said he eventually became accustomed to what he had to do.

Just following orders

"I was desperate," he said. "I didn't want to do anything like that if possible. But I had to follow the orders of my superior as a military man, otherwise I'd have been beaten up."

He could not put a definitive number on how many of the 50 people the unit killed were vivisected or how many of the operations he took part in.

He did say he could never forget those days on the tropical island and even six decades later he could barely talk about his experiences without breaking down.

As he talked about his experiences and memories with Agence France Presse, he lowered his eyes and said he felt the most profound guilt over the way the bodies were handled afterward.

The Japanese made Moros dig holes in the ground, he said, and then they hurled in the bodies with the stomachs still open. "The mud got in all over the human stomach. My captain said there was no need to close the wounds because that would just be a waste of suture thread."

His voice suggesting the troops showed some mercy, Makino added: "But we didn't leave any of the bodies out on the ground."

Driven to desperation

Makino's confession revived memories of Imperial Japan's "mad scientist" Lt. Gen. Shiro Ishii, who led the infamous Unit 731 in northeastern China, where the Japanese made their colonial base of Manchukuo and conducted germ warfare tests on prisoners.

Ishii is believed to have attempted the mass production of biological weapons by testing deadly germs, such as anthrax, dysentery and cholera on prisoners of war, mainly Chinese, and dropping plague-carrying fleas and rats on their villages.

Makino said his unit in the Philippines did not have any organized plan and that it did not test plague germs.

"It was a one-off thing," Makino said. "We didn't take data or anything."

Another Japanese veteran, one of only a handful surviving from the Philippine battlefield, said the final days of the war were so desperate he and his comrades did whatever they thought necessary just to survive.

Yoshihiko Terashima, 86, a former naval chief commander, said he did not commit any living-body experiments himself but added: "That could have easily happened."

Destitute situations

"It must have been natural for military doctors to come up with the idea of using whatever they had for tryouts in such destitute situations," Terashima told AFP in a separate interview.

"They had no medicine and no supplies, so then of course they would have had to come up with ways with whatever they had. And they must have done the same thing to injured Japanese soldiers as well," he said.

Terashima contrasted the situation in the Philippines with that in northeastern China, then known as Manchuria.

"There (in Manchuria) Japan was winning the war. During the time of Makino (in the Philippines), we were losing it," he said.

The Americans landed on Luzon in January 1945 and within six months declared victory. An estimated 218,000 Japanese soldiers were killed in the battles on Luzon island alone.

Like many Japanese soldiers, Makino and Terashima both fled into the jungles.

Huge rats

At his home in a Tokyo suburb, with cabinets full of war documents and a rolled-up map of the world lying on the floor, Terashima recalled the destitute conditions that he faced while fleeing from US attacks.

"When you holed up in a cave at night, you see huge rats crawling up on the faces of dead bodies, eating the eyeballs," Terashima said in a firm voice.

"So we took an iron helmet to catch them and ate them. Those dying just lay on the ground, living a few days by eating the maggots that were infesting their own faces."

In later years, both Makino and Terashima repeatedly returned separately to their former battlefields to collect the remains of Japanese soldiers.

Makino traveled back and forth between Japan and the Philippines more than 10 times, taking everyday supplies like rice, pencils and clothes to needy residents of Mindanao.

"I've done it out of a quest for redemption," Makino said.

Silent for wife's sake

Makino said the past haunted him for years, so much so that he hesitated to marry. "I would tell people that I had reasons for not being able to marry."

It took Makino 10 years to make up his mind to marry a friend's sister, but said he could not talk to her, or anybody, about the surgical killings committed by his unit in the Philippines.

"It was cruel, too cruel to talk about it to a woman. My wife might have thought I was such a cruel person. That's what was in my mind," he said.

"While she was with me, I just didn't want her to know about it," said Makino, who kept a monochrome photo of his wife on his bedside at the hospital where he died in May.

The small, business-card size photo showed a young woman posing in a silk dress, a cape and gloves.

A color photograph taken years later at an amusement park showed two boys wearing baseball caps and his wife, all smiling.

"We were together by fate, so I didn't want her to know anything bad. She grew up as the youngest of four children in her family and totally depended on me," Makino said.

Freed by wife's death

He said his wife's death more than three years earlier freed him to talk publicly about the experiences that haunted him.

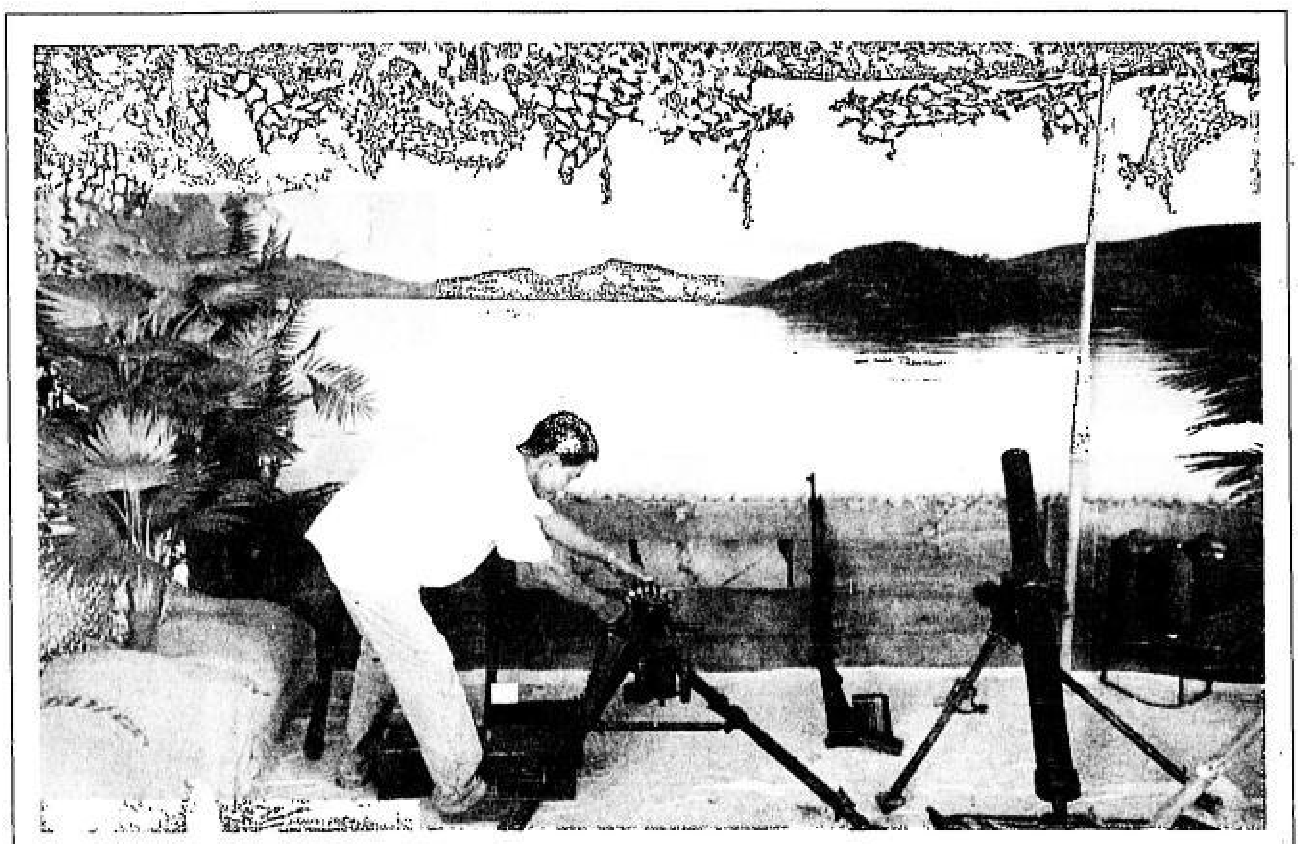
"You have to talk when you know you have done something guilty," he said.

"We lost the war because we deserved it," Makino said with bitterness. "We didn't have enough soldiers, enough arms nor enough bullets. We didn't have enough of anything."

Makino, whose jobs after the war included laboratory assistant and salesman for a water pipe company, said his life had been one of ups and downs.

"My life was such a mess, not planned at all. Maybe it was my fault because I had volunteered to join the Navy. But I would have been drafted eventually anyway," he said.

"In those days people would have thought something was physically wrong with a man if he was not in the military. Born as a man during that era, I had to go to the war." *AFP*



WAR RELICS
An employee of the newly opened Philippine Air Force museum cleans some of the old guns and armaments on display in the facility located at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. JESS YUSON

Leyte Gulf battle shown in miniature

From page A1

glas MacArthur, on landing, fulfilled his famous promise to Filipinos when he declared: "People of the Philippines, I have returned."

Some historical accounts put the number of Japanese losses in the Leyte campaign at 49,000 men, against Allied losses exceeding 15,000.

"The photographs and the scale models in the exhibit are arranged according to the periods that the weapons and vessels saw service during the war," Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum curator Jose Antonio Custodio said in an interview.

Hobbyists' passion

The exhibit reflects various periods in the conflict—The March to War (1930-1941), Japan's Surprise Attack (December 1941-May 1942), The Line Holds (June 1942-December 1942), Island Hopping (January 1943-May 1944), Return to the Philippines (October 1944-March 1945), The Final Offensives (March 1945-August 1945), Surrender (August 1945-September 1945) and The Aftermath (1946-1950).

Custodio, who is also the curator of the exhibit, said the display was a project of the Intramuros Administration (IA) and the International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS) Manila.

The IPMS is a group of hobbyists who share a passion for constructing and collecting plastic scale models—which are miniature versions of the original.

Importance of history

"It rarely happens that scale models of this number are arranged in a chronological manner, such as in this exhibit," Custodio said.

"We have models of sea vessels used during the Leyte battle, such as the Musashi, which sank off the Marinduque-Mindoro area," he said.

The exhibit also shows models of assorted weapons, such as the 105-mm gun used by the American soldiers during the war.

"This 60-year-old weapon is still used by the Philippine Army to this day," Custodio said.

The curator said the exhibit—which will run until May next year—was meant to entertain and inform the public, especially young students, about the importance of history.

Children love it

"I think that we have succeeded in this endeavor, so far. Many children have wanted to take the scale models home," Custodio said, laughing.

The exhibit lies in a corner of the Intramuros Visitors Center (IVC), located at the Baluartillo de San Francisco, a small bulwark built by the Spaniards in 1662 as part of the seafront defense of Intramuros.

During World War II, the chambers were used by the Japanese military police as prison cells of Filipino and American soldiers.

The exhibit is open daily at 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Fort Santiago. Entrance fees are P50 for adults and P25 for students. *With a report from Inquirer Research*

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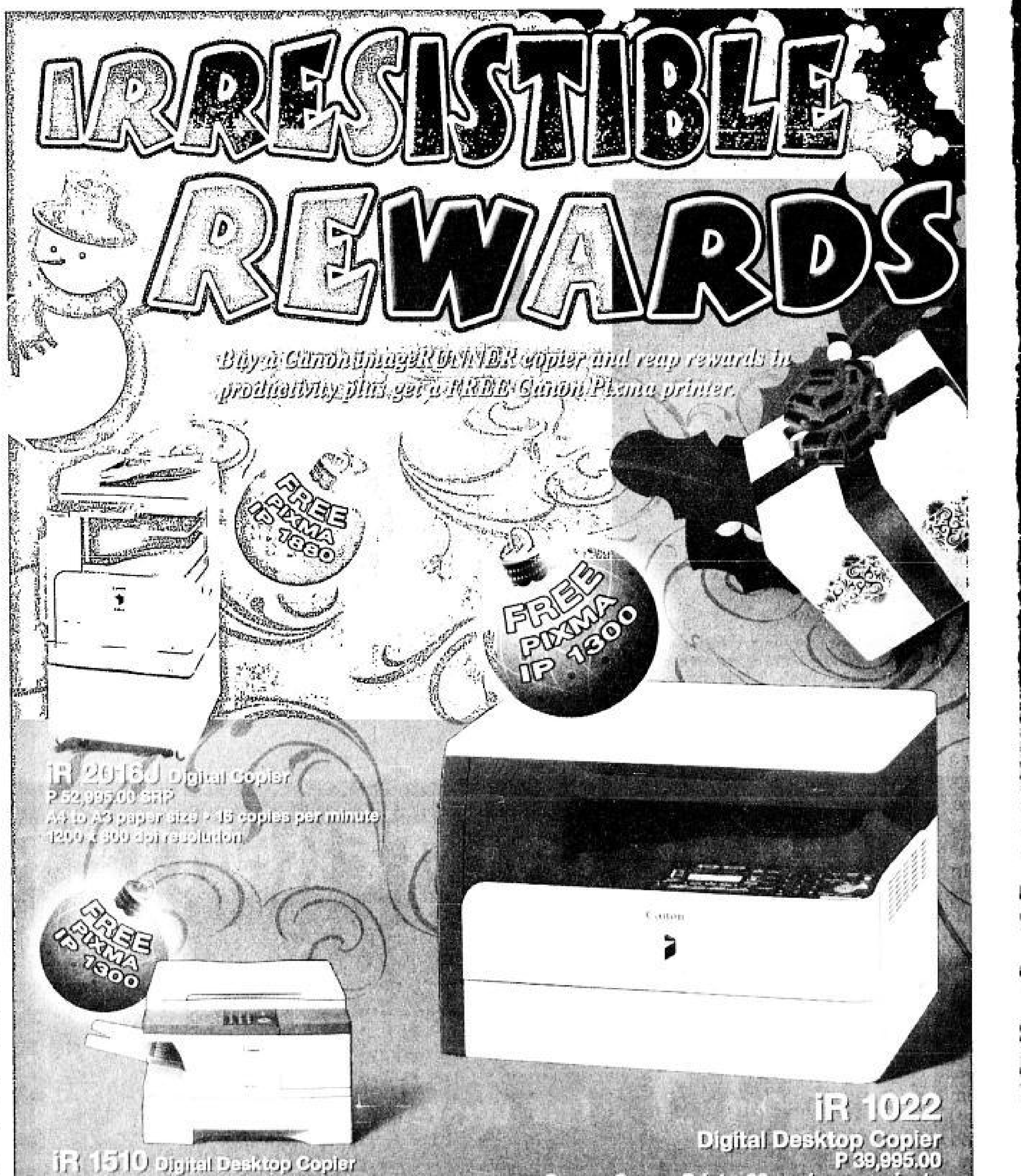

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UN report: RP strategy to blame for killings

By Michael Lim Ubac

A UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL HAS BLAMED the Philippine government's counterinsurgency strategy, and a distorted criminal justice system, for the continuing spate of extrajudicial killings in the country.

In a 21-page report to the UN General Assembly on Friday, Professor Philip Alston, the Commission of Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions stuck to his findings earlier this year that leftist leaders in some parts of the Philippines were "systematically hunted down."

He also reported that Davao City had "men routinely killing street children and others in broad daylight."

The report lumped the Philippines with 30 countries—led by the United States, Israel, China and Russia—that had a disturbing record of extrajudicial or "targeted killings."

On the killing of anywhere from 100 to 800 leftist leaders in the past five years, Alston said "counterinsurgency strategy and recent changes in the priorities of the criminal justice system are of special importance to understanding why the killings continue."

'Strikingly unconvincing'

He said, "Many in the government have concluded that numerous civil society organizations are 'fronts' for the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed group, the New People's Army." One response of government, the report said, has been "counterinsurgency operations that result in the extrajudicial execution of leftist activists."

The report added that, "The priorities of the criminal justice system have also been distorted, and it has increasingly focused on prosecuting civil society leaders rather than their killers."

Philippine government spokespersons have denied the killings were the result of official policy, while military officers blamed communists for the spate of killings. But the Special Rapporteur still maintained that the evidence that the NPA was currently engaged in a large-scale purge "is strikingly unconvincing."

The report also noted that journalists in the country were killed with "increasing frequency as a result of the prevailing impunity together with the structure of the media industry."

The Philippines, however, was given some positive points for cooperating with the Commission on Human Rights and allowing the Special Rapporteur to conduct his fact-finding work in the Philippines from Feb. 12 to 21, 2007.

Ninety percent of the countries listed, Alston said, did not respond to the commission's request for a visit, among them some UN Human Rights Council members (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia) and Security Council members (Russia and China).

RP gets special mention

The Philippines also received special mention for sending a high level representative—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita—to the UN session.

Alston recognized Ermita's presence and thanked the Philippine government for engaging him in this key human rights issue.

Ermita, responding to Alston's report at the same assembly, stressed that the Philippines, unlike other countries, had welcomed Alston with open arms. This, he said, showed the country's "good citizenship in the international human rights system."

The Philippines is a member of the international rights body, he stressed.

Ermita was the first government representative who was given the opportunity to respond out of 11 countries (Iran, Portugal, Venezuela, USA, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, Russia, Singapore and Kenya).

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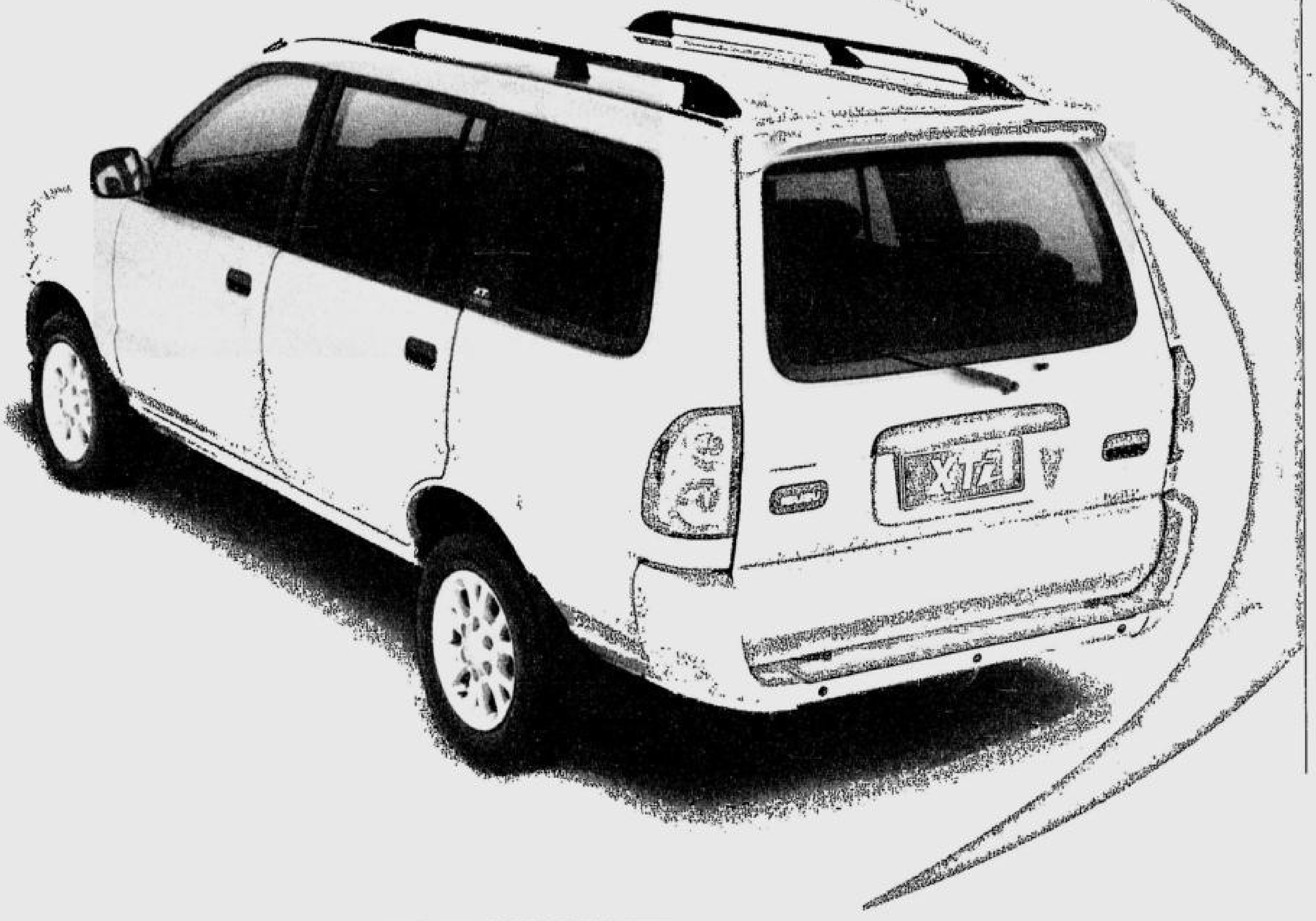

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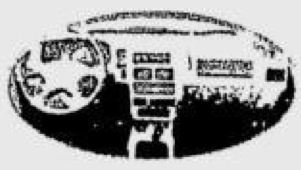
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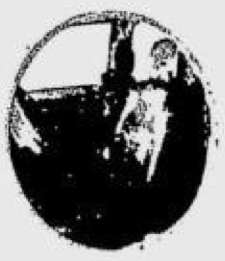
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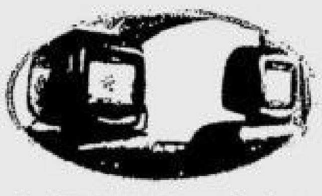
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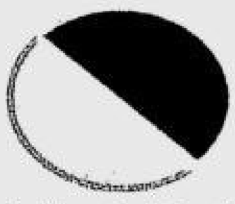
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Metro polls peaceful, says police chief

Comelec calls off elections in some Pasay, Taguig precincts

By the Metro staff

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE CHIEF, DIRECTOR GEARY Barias, described yesterday's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in Metro Manila as generally peaceful, although there were the usual complaints about vote buying, flying voters and missing voters' names.

"It has been peaceful so far, maybe because of our good coordination with the Commission on Elections," Barias said.

"Our assessment tends to show that it could be because of the nonpolitical nature of these elections where candidates have no party affiliations," he said, adding that the short period of the campaign could have helped.

Still, the heated race for local posts in Pasay City prompted the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in 22 voting precincts.

"There were reports that supporters of a candidate tried to seize ballot boxes and paraphernalia so we declared a failure of elections," lawyer Anthonette Soriano, Pasay Comelec officer, said.

The poll body also called off elections in three voting precincts in Barangay Maharlika, Taguig City after the nine teachers appointed to serve as members of the Board of Election Tellers did not report for duty.

Ana Santos, chief of the Taguig City Hall public information office, said that as a result, 520 registered voters were not able to participate in the political exercise.

She added that the nine teachers may be charged by the Comelec for dereliction of duty.

Voter turnout in the synchronized elections was heavy in Manila, especially at the Hermenegildo Atienza Elementary School in Baseco, Tondo, where some 300 people were already standing in front of the school's lone entrance even before the precincts opened.

As a result, 10 policemen were called in to regulate the entry of people to prevent overcrowding inside the polling places.

A 77-year-old woman, Lourdes Gamos, complained that she had been trying to get inside the school since 5 a.m. but was among those forced to wait outside for their turn.

The heavy turnout at the P. Zamora Elementary School in Pasay City also caused a shortage of teachers manning the voting precincts, forcing the principal, Milagros Ignacio, to call in 50 more teachers.

"If the candidate is their relative, people are more likely to go out and cast their votes. They don't do this during national elections," Ignacio said.

Flying voters

Pasay authorities, meanwhile, arrested over 50 people believed to be flying voters.

Ten of them were arrested in Baclaran on board a passenger jeep which came from Cavite. They told the police that they were instructed to vote for a certain candidate for *kagawad* in Barangay 192.

Another 22 suspected flying voters were arrested also on board a jeepney at the junction of F.B. Harrison and Ortigas Street. The driver, Eduardo Cabajiano, told a policeman that a man had promised him P500 to take his passengers to Pasay City and let them vote there.

In Navotas, a woman was arrested after she introduced herself as Virginia Javiniar and tried to cast her vote. As she was doing so, the real Javiniar showed up, resulting in a brief commotion which led to the impostor's arrest.

At the Flora Ylagan High School in Barangay Central, Quezon City, several people complained that flying voters had already voted in their stead.

On the other hand, five residents of Scout Santiago in Barangay South Triangle were nabbed for allegedly trying to vote a second time. They were identified as Jocelyn Reyes, Jeffrey Demetrio, Mark Eclipse, Rosita del Rosario and Leonardo de la Sonna.

The five, however, denied the accusation made by Mark Francisco, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, who said he saw them going from one precinct to another right after casting their votes at the Kamuning Elementary School. They also failed to produce identification cards.

"We tried to be responsible citizens by voting and this is what we get," Reyes, 18, told the INQUIRER in Filipino, saying that yesterday was her first time to participate in an election.

Raising her right forefinger to show that it was not stained by indelible ink, a sign that she had already voted, Reyes vowed, "I will never vote again."

The five were later released by the police after Francisco failed to prove his accusation.

Minor arrested

In Parola, Tondo, several people, including a minor, were arrested at the Rosauro Almario Elementary School for distributing campaign materials inside the school. One of them was identified as Glenn, 14, who said his neighbor had asked him to give away sample ballots.

As in previous elections, there were also complaints about registered voters whose names were not on the list supplied by Comelec.

"We just told them to look again for their names, then we try to look for their names, too. Or we direct them to the Comelec office nearby," said Belen Garcia, principal of the Muntinlupa City Elementary School.

In the eastern part of the metropolis, no major incidents of election-related violence were reported.

"So far, so good, except for minor incidents addressed by the police," Eastern Police District chief, Senior Supt. Nilo de la Cruz, said an hour before the precincts closed at 3 p.m.

In San Juan City, police arrested a candidate for barangay captain for allegedly threatening his neighbor with a gun after they had an argument.

The suspect was identified as Quintin Llorende, 65, a resident of A. Bonifacio Street in Barangay Kabayanan. According to his neighbor Edwin Torres, Llorende threatened him with a gun.

San Juan City police Chief Supt. Rodelio Jocson said the suspect was taken to the police station for violating the Comelec gun ban.

Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, who went around several schools, said the elections in Mandaluyong City were "generally peaceful."

In West Crame, San Juan City, a candidate for *kagawad* said he would file a complaint at the Comelec headquarters in Manila after he noticed that his name was not in the list of candidates.

Felipe Dagami said he was told by Comelec officials that he would have to write his name on every copy of the candidates' list in each precinct in West Crame.

In Pasig City, police chief Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said they checked reports of vote buying in Barangay Rosario. Barangay officials told them, however, that the money being handed out were the allowances of poll watchers.

Voters in Makati City were one in saying that yesterday's elections remained relevant in their daily lives. "There are many things that barangays do, from beautification and road work to helping resolve domestic disputes," said Lutgardo Guinto, 51, a maintenance worker, after he cast his vote at the San Antonio National High School.

"What I want from them is simple. Just provide us with medicine and other health benefits," said 73-year-old Aida Baquiran.

She said she felt obliged to cast her vote, otherwise "I wouldn't be able to go to the barangay hall to seek assistance for something." *As reported by Kristine L. Alave, Jeannette I. Andrade, Julie M. Aurelio, Nancy C. Carvajal, Kenneth M. del Rosario, Allison W. Lopez, Tina G. Santos and DJ Yap*

VOTERS crowd the gate of the Hermenegildo Atienza Elementary School in Baseco, Tondo, Manila, at the start of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections yesterday. Except for isolated incidents of poll irregularities, police and Commission on Elections officials agreed the elections were generally peaceful. REM ZAMORA

Vigilant security, cop team save the day for shopping center

By Jeannette I. Andrade

ALERT SECURITY AND POLICE PERSONnel of a Quezon City shopping center averted a possible explosion with the recovery of a bag full of ammonium nitrate and 19 improvised blasting caps left behind by a still unidentified suspect in an eatery across it.

The bag was found in a small eatery in front of the Ali Mall shopping center on P. Tuazon Boulevard in Barangay Socorro, Cubao at 11:35 p.m. on Thursday. The media found out about the incident only yesterday.

A report from the Quezon City Police District said the bag containing the ammonium nitrate, an ingredient used in making explosives, and bomb-making components was left in the eatery by a burly man described as between 5'5" and 5'6" tall, dark skinned and with long hair.

Josephine Tabulao, the eatery owner, told police that the man ordered food from her at 2 p.m. She only noticed the white plastic bag as she was about to close for the night, she added.

Tabulao immediately informed roving security guards of the Araneta Center and police officers of the QCPD Cubao police station 7 about her find. Upon seeing the bag's contents, they called in the Explosives and Ordnance Division.

A member of the squad, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media, told the INQUIRER that if the improvised explosive device had been rigged or had accidentally gone off, the explosion could have caused massive damage.

"It is not enough to destroy a building but it could have been enough to damage a portion of the establishment. It was good thing that it was found," the source said, although he added that they suspect that the components may have been intended to be used in illegal fishing.

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Tullahan Bridge (finally) reopened to motorists

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AFTER UNDERGOING REHABILITATION for several months, Valenzuela City's Tullahan Bridge was reopened by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to all types of vehicles on Sunday morning.

Angelito Twano, DPWH National Capital Region assistant director, said the bridge was officially opened by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian.

"Work on the roadway has been completed. It is now passable even to heavy vehicles such as trucks and buses," Twano said in a phone interview.

He added that they took advantage of the fair weather to complete work on the bridge, ensuring the stability of its base and laying asphalt on the road leading to the structure.

All that remains to be done is the cementing of the sidewalk, which, Twano said, would not affect traffic flow in the area.

"We opened the bridge three days before our actual target of completion which is Oct. 31," he pointed out.

The DPWH opened the Tullahan Bridge a few weeks ago but only to light vehicles. The agency was forced to close it again after two days for more repair work after several cars got stuck in the unfinished road leading to the bridge.

Twano, however, explained that the "soft opening" was only a test run to determine the soundness of the structure.

"It would be dangerous not to test the bridge first before laying the asphalt. A saturated base—caused by incessant rains—could lead to a rubberized pavement," he said.

The P63 million bridge, originally set to be completed last June, was opened to pedestrians in late September.

The DPWH was criticized for the delays in construction and alleged anomalies in the implementation of the project such as the use of overpriced materials and the awarding of the project to a contractor who had allegedly been blacklisted.

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METROBRIEFS

Man takes daughter hostage

A DESPERATE man took his young daughter hostage in Muntinlupa City before dawn yesterday in a bid to win back his 18-year-old wife who deserted him. Police, however, were able to pacify Garry Velasco, 28, several minutes after he threatened to kill his almost 2-year-old baby. Velasco, a salt vendor and native of Cotabato City, initially went to the Muntinlupa City Police Station to ask for help in finding his wife and to turn over his daughter. His wife was identified as Jenalyn Cademia, 18, who allegedly left him after he refused to allow her to find a job. Investigator PO2 Rudolph Delmendo said the suspect left the police station in a better mood and that they were surprised to later hear that Velasco was threatening to kill his daughter if authorities refused to tell him where his wife was. Delmendo said police were able to subdue the suspect who is now under observation at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa for any sign of trauma.

Julie M. Aurelio

Bus conductor stabbed dead

POLICE are still looking for one of two suspects, one of them a bus driver, who stabbed to death a bus conductor in Quezon City in an argument over passengers. Enrique Arena, 41, of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, was declared dead on arrival at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center after he was stabbed by the suspects with a 36-inch lead pipe with a sharpened tip. Arturo Padilla, 44, a Jell Transport Bus driver, of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, was arrested immediately after allegedly assaulting Arena. His alleged cohort was able to escape. The other suspect at large was described as between 28 and 29 years old, 5'4" tall, of medium build, with fair skin and curly hair. Reports from the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) said the incident happened at around 5:30 p.m. on Edsa, near Cubao. Prior to the incident, a witness said she saw Arena board the suspects' bus to confront them for taking away some of his passengers. Arena got off the vehicle but was followed by the suspects who attacked him.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Baby killed in Caloocan

FOR INFORMING the police of a holdup group's activities, a police informer was attacked inside his house last Sunday in Bagumbong, Caloocan City. PO2 Joel Casin said two armed men went inside the house of Antonio Sorio, 42, and shot him as he was sleeping in bed with his wife and 5-month-old baby. The baby was hit in the head and died instantly. The couple were taken to a hospital where they were reported in serious condition.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Ermita in danger of losing out to Puno

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHETHER GLORIA M. ARROYO did it to unite a divided nation or to save her own skin, only she knows the true motive in pardoning convicted plunderer Erap.

It's difficult to fathom a political animal like GMA who grew up exposed to politics, culminating in her father becoming president of the Philippines.

I remember talking to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in the Makati condominium office of his son, Jack, years ago. The conversation drifted to GMA, who was not yet his political ally then. Enrile said, "That woman has more political savvy than (Ferdinand) Marcos."

So, whether she made a fatal mistake in granting executive clemency to Erap or bought herself time to last until 2010, will be determined in the next couple of months.

But as things stand now, she has weathered the storm caused by the NBN-ZTE scandal and the distribution of largesse to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

So far, anyway.

* * *

Of course, her decision to pardon Erap was influenced in no small measure by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, a political genius.

Puno, who was also Erap's interior secretary, shuttled back and forth between the jailed president's Tanay estate that served as his jail and Malacañang.

Puno, who reportedly influenced the outcome of the 1992 presidential election, where Fidel V. Ramos won over Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was in his element, reconciling Erap with GMA.

Is it any wonder then that despite being unpopular with most of his colleagues in the Cabinet, Puno is GMA's fair-haired boy?

* * *

My Palace sources say Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's position in the Cabinet has become untenable.

Puno and Ermita have been at loggerheads over many issues, the latest being the alleged distribution of money to congressmen and local officials in the latter's own turf.

Ermita reportedly suspected Puno of being behind the shameless handing out of cash in the Palace, and allegedly confronted the latter about it.

An ally of the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, Puno has gained a bigger foothold in Malacañang because hes succeeded in getting Erap and GMA together.

Ermita and Mike Arroyo have kept their distance from each other ever since. It is said that the only Cabinet member that Mike Arroyo could not push around was Ermita.

If Ermita stays too long in the United States, he might find his position handed over to Puno on a silver platter.

* * *

My Palace spies say Ermita didn't really go to the United Nations conference to attend a human rights conference, but "to cool his head" over Puno's intrusion into his turf.

"That was just an excuse, Mon. Okay, he was really scheduled to attend that UN conference but he should have stayed here after the explosion at Glorietta," says a Palace functionary.

The crisis resulting from the Glorietta explosion was more important than the UN conference.

Being the primus inter pares (first among equals) in the President's circle of advisers, the executive secretary should have been by GMA's side during the crisis.

But Ermita left a day after the Glorietta explosion.

DID YOU KNOW

ROUGHLY P400 million is reportedly spent yearly on burials alone. According to estimates in 2004, funeral costs—which include the memorial lot, casket and interment—amounted to around P245,000. In 2006, the expenses for a traditional burial ranged from P350,000 to P450,000. According to Funeraria Paz, the most expensive service they have rendered so far amounted to more than P1 million, which included a bronze casket worth P700,000.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

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INQUIRER

First lady Kirchner elected Argentina president

BUENOS AIRES—ARGENTINA'S GLAMorous first lady, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, claimed victory in her bid to become the first woman in her country's history to be elected president, as officials worked into Monday counting ballots from weekend polls.

"We have won by a large margin," the 54-year-old senator told cheering supporters in a speech broadcast live on television hours after polls closed Sunday.

A partial count showed her with 43 percent of the vote, double that of her nearest rivals, according to a tally of nearly a third of the votes.

If maintained, that score would make her the outright victor of the election without the need for a runoff in November.

With her husband on stage with her, applauding her words, Fernandez made special mention "of the man who is at my side today, and who has been my companion all my life," and blew him a kiss.

In the lead-up to the elections—which she entered as the solid favorite—Fernandez emphasized her husband's presidential record more than her own two decades in politics as a lawmaker.

Kirchner, 57, enjoys widespread popularity for having overseen an impressive turnaround in Argentina's economy during his four-year mandate.

He has not explained why he is stepping down.

When he came in, the country was still struggling after a 2001 economic collapse that saw it become the biggest-ever defaulter of sovereign debt.

Since then, the economy has grown nearly 50 percent and unemployment has halved.

Fernandez reminded supporters of that and claimed part of the credit, telling them: "We have repositioned the country, fought poverty and unemployment, all these tragedies that have hit Argentines."

Observers, though, said Fernandez could be in for a rough ride if she ignored the threats now stalking the country: high inflation, rising crime and low foreign investment.

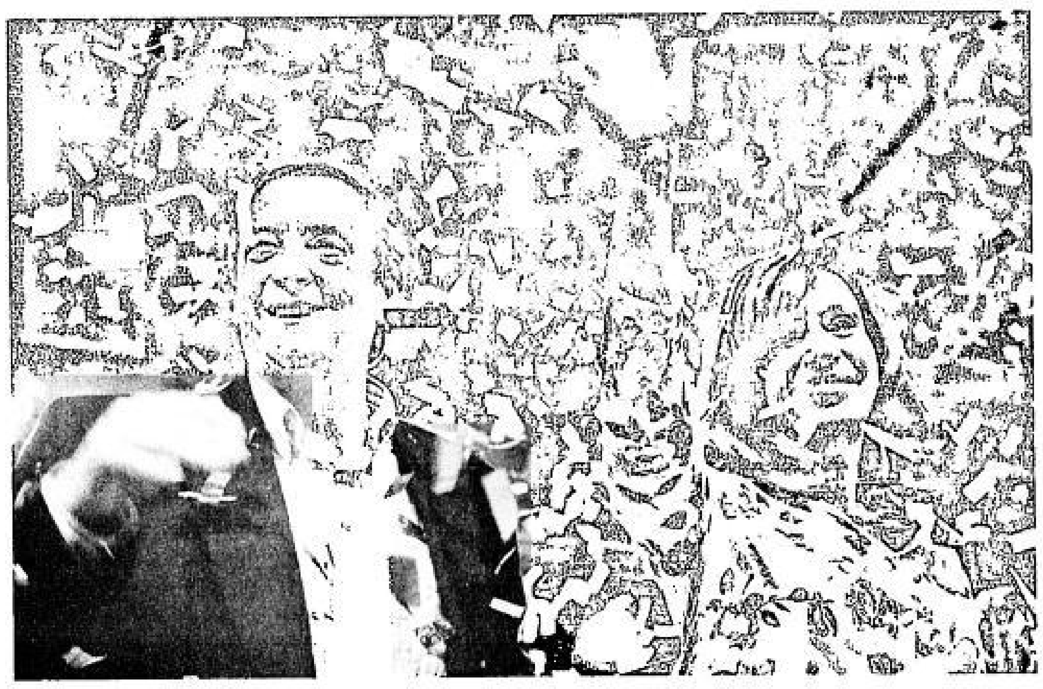
"She will find it a very different challenge than that during her husband's term," Michael Shifter, a Latin American analyst at the Washington think-tank The Dialogue, said.

"The risk is that she's going to think that what worked for him will work for her," he said.

A steely lawyer who got a taste of executive power during her husband's term in office, Fernandez has been frequently compared to US lawyer, senator and former first lady Hillary Clinton.

Her designer dresses and reputation for arrogance have also made many talk about her in terms of Argentina's most iconic woman politician: Eva, or "Evita" Peron, second wife to president Juan Peron.

It was Juan Peron's third wife, Isabel, who was Argentina's first-ever female president—but that was because she was elevated from the vice-presidency on her husband's death in 1974. She never had a chance to contest an election, being ousted in a coup two years later. *AFP*



PRESIDENTIAL candidate Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (right) and Argentina's President Nestor Kirchner, wave to supporters at their headquarters in Buenos Aires, on Oct. 28. AP

Israel cuts fuel flow to Gaza

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID Sunday that Israel had begun reducing fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip and had closed one of the two crossings through which food, medicine and other supplies pass into the area, in line with a government decision to impose sanctions in response to rocket fire from the territory.

Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, the Israeli agency that oversees supplies to Gaza, said the plan was to reduce the amount of fuel by 5 percent to 11 percent. He said that the industrial fuel needed to operate the Gaza power plant would not be affected, but that cuts would be made in the supply of benzene and diesel.

Dror said that the Sufa crossing to the north had been closed, leaving the Kerem Shalom crossing in the south as the only point of entry for goods.

The main commercial crossing on the Gaza-Israel border, Karni, has been closed since the militant Islamic group Hamas took over Gaza in June. The Rafah crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border has also been closed since June.

Israel, like the United States and the European Union, considers Hamas a terrorist organization and refuses to deal with it. Hamas does not recognize Israel's right to exist, and its charter seeks Israel's destruction.

As a result, only limited supplies of basic goods have been allowed to enter the strip, and all exports of produce have been prohibited.

With only Kerem Shalom functioning, the number of trucks of food and other goods entering Gaza will be reduced to roughly 55 trucks a day from 100 to 120, Dror said.

"We will allow in the minimum amount of food and medicines necessary to avoid a humanitarian crisis," he said.

In Gaza, a senior Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar, said his group would first "examine the effects" of the new measures "on the ground, particularly in the spheres of health and education, and then we will act." He would not be more specific, other than to say that Hamas would work on its own plan. *NYT*

Vatican beatification stirs Spanish war memories

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN HELD THE biggest mass beatification in history on Sunday, putting nearly 500 Catholics killed during the Spanish civil war on the path to possible sainthood.

But the outdoor ceremony in St. Peter's Square, attended by tens of thousands of Spanish pilgrims, also revived bitter memories of a conflict which still divides Spain.

Many Catholic clergy and Church leaders sided with Francisco Franco during the 1936-39 conflict, which began when the general led a military coup against the left-wing government and ended with his victory and installation as a dictator.

Most of the Catholic martyrs honored on Sunday were killed by left-wing militias at the outbreak of fighting in 1936.

"The Communists came and took him away, they shot him," said Martin Lozano, describing the death of his great-uncle, a 35-year-old priest from Toledo. Lozano, 45, was named after him.

"This is an important ceremony for Spain, for our history," Lozano said.

Over decades, the Church in Spain has gathered evidence that hundreds of its members died for their faith during the war, making them eligible for beatification.

If devout Catholics report miracles linked to their prayers to those beatified on Sunday, some could be considered for sainthood, a process which takes many more years.

The civil war is still the source of furious debate in Spain and the Church has insisted it did not want the beatification ceremony to be confused with a political statement.

Pope Benedict, speaking to the crowds in St. Peter's Square just after the ceremony, said the martyrs honored on Sunday were "motivated exclusively by their love for Christ."

"The beatifications today remind us of the importance of humbly following our Lord even to the point of offering our lives for the faith," the Pontiff said.

Martyrs were even more important symbols in today's "secularized society," the Pontiff said.

In Spain, there is no more potent symbol of the kind of secularization opposed by the Vatican than the current socialist government's policy to allow gay marriage.

During the beatification ceremony, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins reminded the crowd that marriage should only be "between a man and a woman."

The Spanish government is also promoting a law, opposed by the Church, officially to condemn the rule of Franco, who died in 1975. *Reuters*

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The Tamugan Hydro Power Project is a 34MW hydroelectric plant consisting of Tamugan AB Plant 20MW, Panigan 7.5 MW, and Suawan 6.5MW located in various barangays in Davao City. The project is being developed by Hedcor, Inc., a subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corporation.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Hedcor, Inc. and attach the latest Company Profile, Capability Statement and Audited Financial Statement for the last 3 years. The LOI shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number/s of the interested party, name of principal contact, and must be signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by Hedcor, Inc not later than November 5, 2007 and should be addressed to:

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Further instructions shall be given to the interested parties that submitted the LOI.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or potential bidders without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd) **Rene B. Ronquillo**
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(PDI--Oct. 30, 2007

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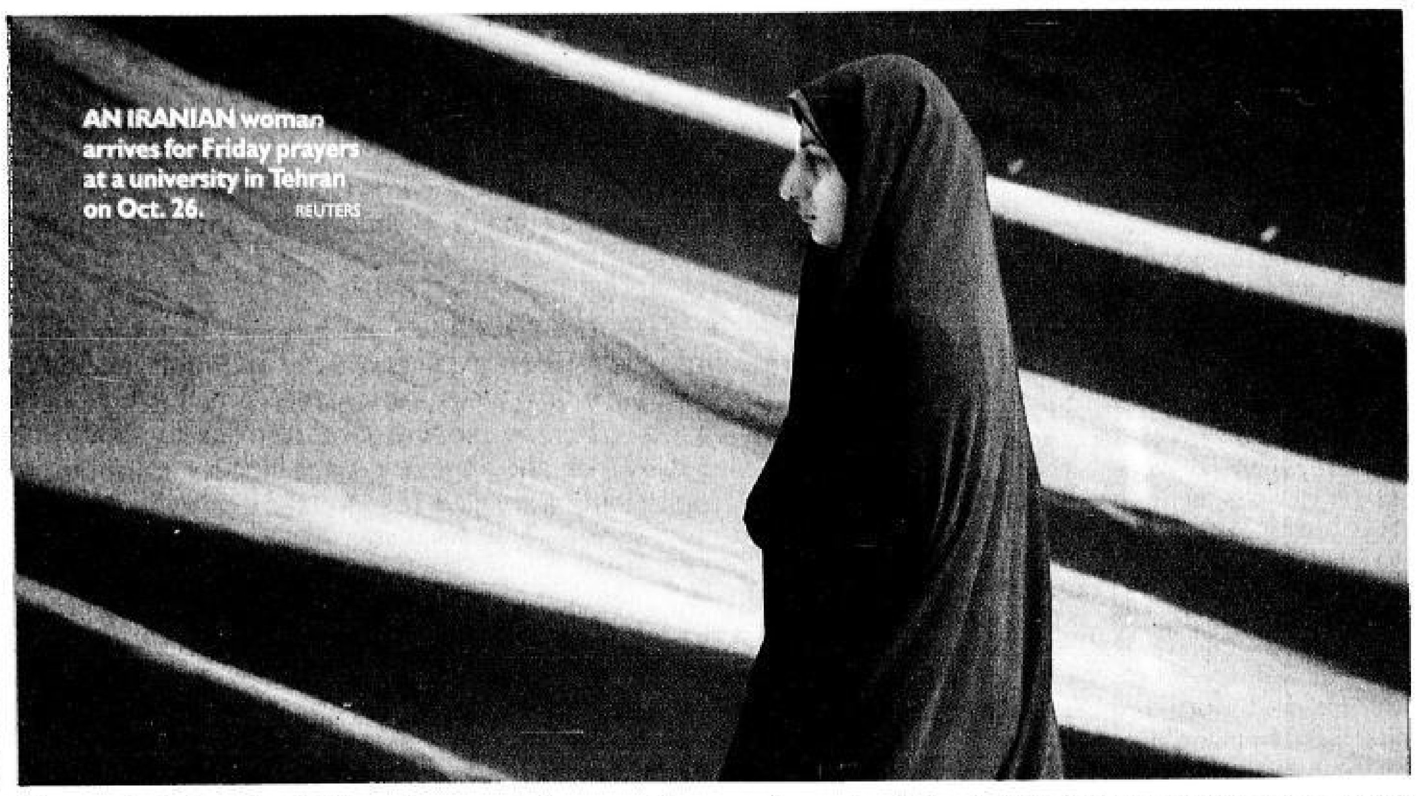
UN nuke chief attacks US claims on Iran



AN IRANIAN woman arrives for Friday prayers at a university in Tehran on Oct. 26. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—UN ATOMIC watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei said Sunday he had no evidence that Iran is building nuclear weapons and accused US leaders of adding "fuel to the fire" with recent bellicose rhetoric.

"We haven't received any information there is a parallel, ongoing, active nuclear weapon program," the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency told CNN.

"Second, even if Iran were to be working on nuclear weapons ... they are at least (a) few years away from having such weapon," he said, citing Washington's own intelligence assessments.

"My fear (is) that if we continue to escalate from both sides that we will end up into a precipice, we will end up into an abyss. The Middle East is in a total mess, to say the least. And we cannot add fuel to the fire."

The White House Friday rejected any parallels between its Iran rhetoric and the run-up to the Iraq war, after fresh sanctions on Tehran and escalating US warnings fueled comparisons to the months before the 2003 invasion.

"We are absolutely committed to a diplomatic process," spokesperson Tony Fratto told reporters.

"We would never take options off the table, but the diplomatic process is what we want to move forward with," he said, calling it "unwise" to rule out the use of force.

His comments came as US President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have been sharply ramping up their rhetoric about Iran, leading some critics to draw parallels with the late 2002 verbal escalation against Iraq.

In recent months, Bush has predicted "nuclear holocaust" and "World War III" if Tehran gets atomic weapons, while Cheney has warned of "serious consequences" for Iran if it defies global demands to freeze uranium enrichment—echoing the UN resolution that Washington says authorized war in Iraq.

Iran insists that it is enriching uranium only for nuclear energy and denies US charges that it is seeking the bomb.

ElBaradei has been vindicated in his prewar belief that Iraq was not resuming its own nuclear arms program, contrary to claims by Bush and Cheney.

However, he said that in the current dispute, "we cannot give Iran a pass right now, because there is still a lot of question marks."

"But have we seen Iran having the nuclear material that can readily be used into a weapon? No. Have we seen an active weaponization program? No."

Merely "exchanging rhetoric" would not resolve the Iranian nuclear case, the IAEA chief said, adding that "the earlier we follow the North Korean model, the better for everybody."

North Korea has already detonated a nuclear device. But under six-nation talks, the Stalinist state has agreed to dismantle its nuclear weapons program in return for a broad package of economic and diplomatic incentives. *AFP*

Security upgrades at 5 US nuke sites are lagging, auditors find

WASHINGTON—MORE THAN A year after Congress told the Energy Department to harden the nation's nuclear bomb factories and laboratories against terrorist raids, five of the 11 sites are certain to miss their deadlines, some by many years, the Government Accountability Office has found.

The Energy Department has put off security improvements at some sites that store plutonium because it plans to consolidate the material at central locations, but the GAO said in a Senate briefing that that project is also likely to lag. A copy of the briefing materials was provided to The New York Times by a private group, the Project on Government Oversight, which has long been pushing for better security at the weapons sites.

Danielle Brian, the group's executive director, said that although the deadline set by Congress was tight, if the Energy Department "had taken seriously consolidating and making this an expedited effort, they wouldn't be having these problems now."

Robert Alvarez, an adviser to the energy secretary in the Clinton administration, said there was wide agreement that centralizing the fuel was a good idea. But Alvarez added, "There's a lot of pushback about moving fissile materials from a site, because then you lose a portion of your budget and prestige."

The Energy Department declined requests for an interview, but Michael Kilpatrick, a deputy chief at the department's Office of Health, Safety and Security, said in a statement that the steps under way were "further enhancements and better protection to some of the most secure facilities in the country."

The Energy Department told Congress in 2006 that six sites would meet the 2008 deadline. But the accountability office said one of those, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, would not make the deadline. *NYT*

Unification to cost South Korea about $1 trillion

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA WILL NEED TO spend about $1 trillion or more to renovate the North's creaky infrastructure if the two were to reunite, a South Korean study said, adding that the cost will go up further over time.

But South Korea's economy can expect benefits through decreased military spending, selling to new markets in the North and tapping into its cheap land and labor, said the report from the National Assembly's Special Committee on Budget and Accounts.

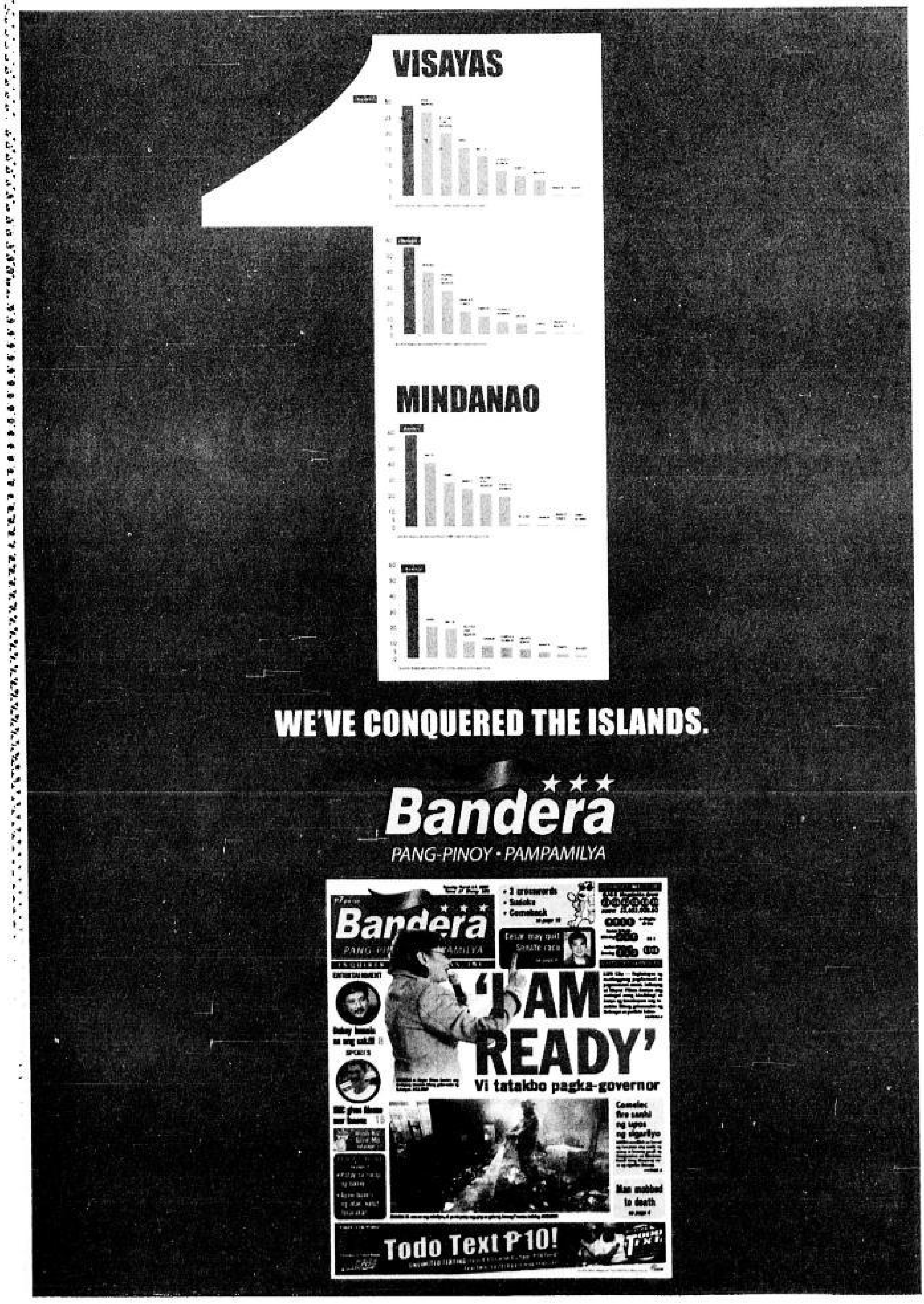
The report, obtained on Monday, said if the two Koreas reunified in 2015, it would cost the South $858 billion over 10 years to absorb its destitute neighbor and raise its economy to half that of the South's.

If the two started in 2030, the cost would be $1.32 trillion.

Many in South Korea are worried that unifying could wreck its economy—the world's 13th largest. They also fear a flood of refugees coming over the border from the North—whose economy is less than three percent the size of the South's.

The longer it takes to unify, the greater the gap becomes between the two economies and the more the North's factories and transport and other systems will fall into disrepair.

North Korea infrastructure is a shambles with the communist state still using rail lines, roads and power grids built during Japan's 1910-1945 rule. *Reuters*



Israel PM Olmert to continue work despite ailment, says radio

OLMERT AFP

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI PRIME Minister Ehud Olmert called a surprise news conference for noon on Monday to address a personal health problem, but public broadcaster Israel Radio said he would not step down.

Political sources told Reuters the news conference would be on the prime minister's health and one source said the ailment was "not too serious." Israel Radio said Olmert, 62, would announce he would stay in office despite the condition.

"This is not a matter for a major government shake-up or for Olmert taking a leave of absence," the broadcaster said.

Israel Radio quoted a private television channel as saying that Olmert had prostate cancer. One political source said he had been told by Israeli officials that the prime minister's doctors found a tumor on his prostate gland.

The prime minister's office would say only that the news conference would be on a "nonpolitical" topic.

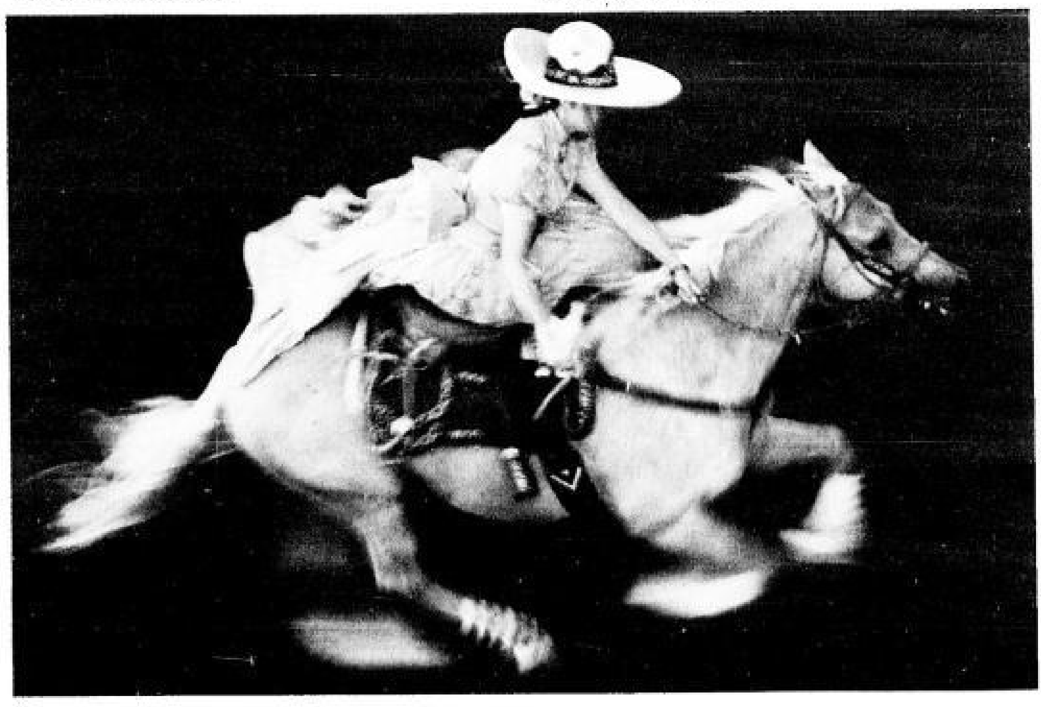
A senior European Union official who met Olmert on Monday said he appeared well and relaxed: "I think he was fine."

"He was joking. He was in a very good mood," EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said.

Olmert is a keen runner and fitness fanatic but has been dogged by heavy criticism and talk of scandal for much of the 21 months since he took over the premiership when his centrist party ally Ariel Sharon was incapacitated by a stroke.

The death toll and inconclusive outcome of the war Olmert launched last year against Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas saw his personal popularity ratings plunge to single digits. He was heavily criticized by a commission of inquiry that has yet to give its final conclusions. But he has refused to resign.

A lawyer and former mayor of Jerusalem, he is also fighting a series of police investigations into allegations of corruption while he was in previous posts. *Reuters*



LA CABALLERA
Mexican rider Mariana Moreno competes for the 'escaramuza' category final competition at the National Charro Championship in Morelia, central Mexico, on Oct. 28. AP

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SPORTS

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Red-hot Sox sweep Rockies in four games /A24

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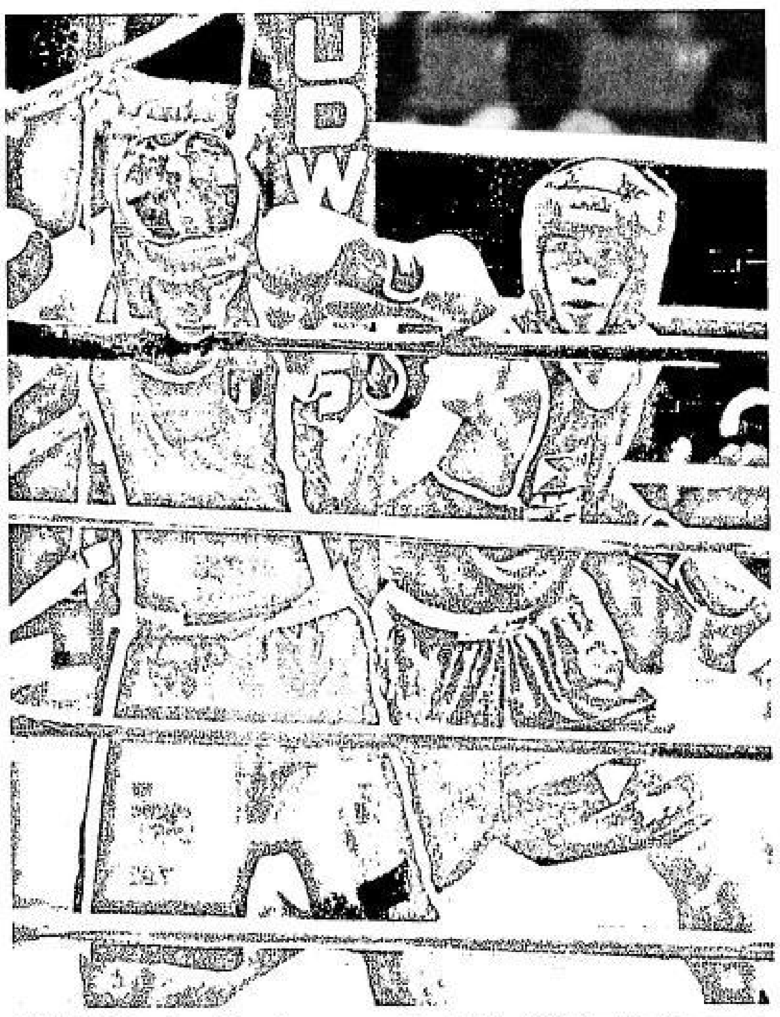

FILIPINO Genebert Basadre pummels Jordanian Al Matboli to the ropes in one of Sunday's lightweight matches. MANNY ZAMBRANO/ CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT

Tañamor, Basadre whip foes, join Payla in world tilt's last 16

By Dennis U. Eroa

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—VETERAN HARRY Tañamor showed no ill-effects of a week-long layoff as he outclassed Nasir Mohammed of Wales, 24-5, Sunday in the International Amateur Boxing Association World Championships here.

Earlier, lightweight Genebert Basadre whipped Faraj Al-Matboli of Jordan, 29-7, to join Tañamor and flyweight Violito Payla in the round of 16 at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion.

Light flyweight Tañamor, Basadre and Payla of the RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team only have to beat their respective rivals on Wednesday to join the list of quarterfinalists who will get automatic berths to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Displaying boundless energy, Tañamor landed the big punches against the Welshman, who showed nothing but courage.

A veteran of the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, Tañamor surged ahead by 10 points, 13-3, at the end of second round before securing the win with a flurry of punches that boosted his lead to 20-5 early in the fourth and final round.

"I've met him (Mohammed) before and lost due to biased scoring in the Tammer Cup in Finland," said Tañamor, also a bronze medalist in the 2001 and 2003 World Championships in Belfast and Bangkok, respectively. I knew his style and I came to the bout confident."

Despite the impressive win, head coach Pat Gaspi said the 29-year-old pride of Zamboanga City has still much to offer.

"Harry's peaking at the right time," said Gaspi. "He'll be in peak form in the next fight."

Like Payla, who advanced to the round of 16 by besting Andrew Selby of Wales and Khalid Said of England, Tañamor faces an uphill battle to gain an Olympic berth.

Tañamor battles 2005 World Championship bronze medalist Sherali Dostiev next, while Payla tests Rau'shee Warren, a rising star in the United States boxing team.

Despite the lopsided score, there were tense moments before Basadre pulled through.

The Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist from Cagayan de Oro City lost his concentration and was slapped with two warnings, one each in the second and third rounds, for repeated head ducking and wrestling.

A third warning would have meant disqualification for Basadre, who was comfortably ahead, 20-4, early in the fourth round.

Basadre wisely stayed away from trouble to preserve his victory.

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Romanian boxers sent home for shoplifting

CHICAGO—THREE FIGHTERS from Romania were thrown out of the World Boxing Championships after they were caught trying to steal from a department store in Chicago, organizers said Sunday.

Richard Baker, of the International Amatuer Boxing Association (Aiba), said the boxers—Marius Bogdan Dinu, 21, Ronald Gavril, 21, and Gabriel Julian Stan, 20—were caught by surveillance cameras in the Nordstrom department store as they attempted to make off with merchandise.

Their results in the competition have been nullified, and they will be banned from amateur boxing for life.

"This misbehavor tarnishes the reputation of Aiba and the sport of boxing," said Aiba president Wu Ching-kuo of Taiwan, adding the Romanian squad's chief trainer was also ordered home. *AFP*

MIÑOZA: Rises in Japan Tour

PAGUNSAN: Breakthrough win

Frankie, Juvic join crack Singapore field

FILIPINOS JUVIC PAGUNSAN and Frankie Miñoza will come into this week's $4 million Barclays Singapore Open with a spring in their step after weekend successes on the Asian Tour and Japan Tour, respectively.

Pagunsan eagled the final hole to win the Pertamina Indonesia President Invitational by a shot over India's Gaganjeet Bhullar while the veteran Miñoza defeated promising 20-year-old Korean Lee Dong-hwan in a playoff to triumph in the ABC Championship.

The 29-year-old Pagunsan, who came close to winning the UBS Hong Kong Open last season, recorded his first victory on the Asian Tour while the decorated Miñoza lifted his seventh title on the Japan Tour.

The double triumph ahead of the Barclays Singapore Open, dubbed the "Major of Asia," will inspire the Filipino duo as they take on an elite field that includes world No. 2 Phil Mickelson, two-time defending champion Adam Scott, Ernie Els, Vijay Singh and South Korea's KJ Choi, twice a PGA Tour winner this season.

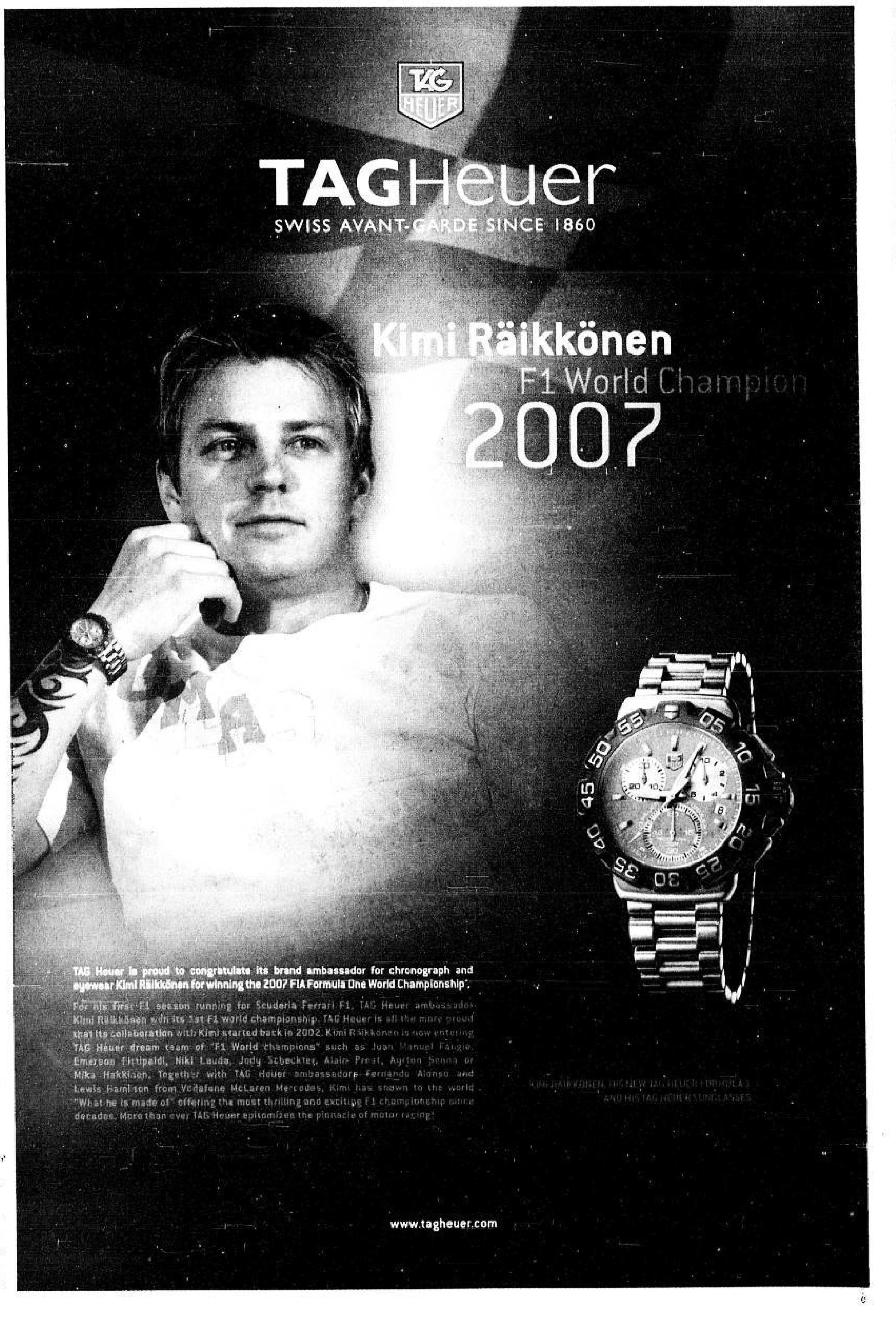
Miñoza, winner of the Philippine Open in February, shot a closing 70 to tie Lee on 14-under-par 274. The 47-year-old Filipino clinched the title in sudden death and pocketed a cheque for $210,000 (about P9.25 milion).

Japan's Shingo Katayama, who will also tee up at the Barclays Singapore Open, finished third following his win the previous week in the Bridgestone Open.

Miñoza, whose last win in Japan came in the Fujisankei Classic in 2001, moved up to 14th in the money list with earnings of Y38,995,775 ($370,600). He is also 14th in the Asian Tour Order of Merit with $165,622 in prize money from nine tournaments.

With his win, Pagunsan rose from 80th to 33rd in the Asian OOM with $92,027 in earnings.

The other Filipinos in the top 60 of the Asian OOM are Gerald Rosales (42), Antonio Murakami (45) and Antonio Lascuña (54). *Asian Tour News*



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Laguna, Naga finish 1-2 in Bicol-Southern Tagalog meet

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—LAGUNA SCOOPED UP seven more gold medals in aquatics yesterday to seal its dominance of the Philippine Olympic Festival-Bicol Southern Tagalog qualifying games at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

Marvie Borja, Joshua Desamero and Banjo Borja picked up two more golds each while the 200-meter medley relay for girls' 13-14 years old, made up of Julie Delas Alas, Grace Cervantes, Althea Belen and Margot Mabanta, capped Laguna's final-day onslaught that gave the province 39 golds alone in the pool.

Marvie Borja ruled the 100m butterfly and 400m freestyle for girls' 15-and-above while her brother, Banjo, scored convincing victories in the 400m freestyle and 200m breaststroke for boys' 15-and-above.

Desamero struck in the 100m fly and 400m free in the boys' 13-14 category as Laguna seized the overall crown with 125 gold medals, 89 silvers and 57 bronzes.

Laguna also produced 14 golds in taekwondo and arnis, 13 in archery and gymnastics and seven in karatedo and judo to win pulling away from host Naga City (87-89-92) and Cavite (83-52-37).

But the top individual accolade went to Christin Grace Tan, a lovely 14-year-old national training pool aspirant from Batangas.

The 5-foot-5 Tan splashed her way to two more gold medals by winning the 400m free and 100m fly for girls' 14-and-under to emerge as the tournament's best athlete with 12 gold medals.

Tan also ruled the 50m, 100m, 200m and 800m free, 100m and 200m back, 100m and 200m breast and the 200m and 400m individual medley.

Although Tan collared the most number of gold medals, a pair of nine-year-olds—Renzo Oliver Baja of Batangas and Laguna's Catherin Bondad—came up with exceptional marks in their respective events.

Baja registered five "Triple A" ratings in the 200m IM, 100m back, 50m free, 100m breast and 50m fly while Bondad had remarkable performances in the 100m back, 200m IM, 50m free and 100m breast.

Ratings are used internationally to measure the potential of young swimmers, with Triple A considered as the highest.

Host Naga City leaned on the golden efforts of swimmer Michaelmars Danila, its gymnasts, taekwondo jins, archers and arnis masters to overhaul Cavite for second place on the final day.

Cavite ruled the track and field competition to grab the lead in the first three days but could come up with just a lone gold out of the 128 gold medals at stake in the pool.

Medal tally	G	S	B
Laguna	125	89	57
Naga City	87	89	92
Cavite	83	52	37
Batangas	30	36	39
Rizal	16	25	22
Or. Mindoro	14	7	12
Cam. Sur	13	33	25
Lucena City	10	0	0
P. Princesa	3	4	5
Cam. Norte	2	5	4
Masbate	1	1	0
Palawan	0	8	1
Albay	0	0	1

Alcano sees RP-Taiwan duel for World Pool supremacy

By Musong R. Castillo

IF A FILIPINO FAILS TO WIN THE 2007 World Pool Championship, the winner will most likely be a Taiwanese.

This was the assessment of defending champion Ronnie Alcano as he stressed how much the Taiwanese have caught up with the Filipinos in the game and are even threatening to take over as world powers.

"*Sa tingin ko nga, angat na sila sa atin* (I think the Taiwanese now have the edge over the Filipinos)," Alcano told the INQUIRER yesterday in an interview in Quezon City.

But he stressed that he is ready to defend the title he won over Germany's Ralf Souquet.

"I'm always ready (to defend)," he said. "Like the way I treated last year's tournament, I will treat the elimination matches as a championship match and treat the championship match as a round-robin game."

Alcano cited the fact that the Philippine bench has become shallow. He said the Filipinos who were considered as big guns in the past no longer have the game to contend with the younger Taiwanese bets.

The powerhouse Taiwanese delegation will be led by former world champions Wu Chia-ching and Chao Fong-pang.

"We will not even beat them on the break," Alcano, who is also the reigning World 8-ball champion, said. "It is safe to say that the Taiwanese are the only ones who can beat us."

The runner-up in the recent US Open, Alcano also said that Dennis Orcollo has the best chance to win from among the huge Filipino contingent in the $400,000 (about P17.6 million) event that starts Nov. 3.

"His game is picking up and he is virtually unbeatable in the money game these days," the 35-year-old Calamba native bared.

Alcano said he also has the game to win.

"I want to win again, because no player in the history of this event has won it two years in a row," he said.

Efren "Bata" Reyes first won the event in 1999 with Canada-based Alex Pagulayan winning in 2004, two years after Francisco "Django" Bustamante lost in the finals to American Earl Strickland.

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

GANDY Valle lines up a shot in yesterday's qualifying round of the 2007 World Pool Championship at the Star Paper Corp. in Quezon City. Four unheralded Taiwanese won the first four of eight slots to the main draw of the WPC after two days of qualifying. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

OLYMPIC-BOUND JIN: PLDT-Smart chair Manny Pangilinan (third from left) congratulates Tshomlee Go for becoming the first Filipino taekwondo jin to qualify for next year's Beijing Olympics during a courtesy call at the taekwondo sports patron's Makati office. Also shown (from left) are Jobet Morales, RP team coach; Philippine Taekwondo Association VP Sung Chon Hong; and Smart's Bong Mojica. The Philippines will be gunning for three more slots in the Asian qualifier in Vietnam next month.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

SSC eyes No. 4 over La Salle

STANDINGS (win-loss)—SSC 3-0, UST 3-1, Ateneo 3-1, Adamson 2-1, FEU 2-2, La Salle 1-1, Lyceum 0-4, Letran 0-4

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.— Adamson vs Letran
5 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian

TOPNOTCH VOLLEYBALL ACTION RESUMES today as streaking San Sebastian goes for its fourth straight win against a well-rested De La Salle side in the Shakey's V-League Second Conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The SSC spikers, bannered by Thai import Jaroensri Bualee, swept their first three games against Adamson, Ateneo and Lyceum, a run which they want to stretch with another victory over the Lady Archers in their 5 p.m. encounter.

The Taft-based squad has not seen action since whipping Letran last Oct. 16.

Guest player Maureen Penetrante will be hard-pressed to inspire the Lady Archers.

Adamson, meanwhile, tries to regain its winning ways when it takes on Letran, winless in four starts, in the 3 p.m. game.

The Adamson-Letran duel will be shown tomorrow on NBN-4 starting at 2 p.m. while the SSC-La Salle encounter will be aired on Thursday, also at 2 p.m.

UST belles, St. La Salle nail U-games football titles

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—ONE TITLE STREAK CAME to a dramatic end, while another got an extension on the final day of the 12th Philippine University Games here.

Keeper Desiree Saligao provided the flash of inspiration as University of Santo Tomas halted the eight-year reign of La Salle in women's football with a 4-3 penalty-shootout victory in the finals at the Panaad pitch Sunday.

In the last match of the Unigames, University of St. La Salle needed a late wonder strike from national player Arnie Pasinabo to nip local rival West Negros College, 2-1, in extra time for its fourth straight men's crown.

Pasinabo's 108th-minute left-footed goal—a product of remarkable work rate and individual skill—came after WNC's Robert Cañedo headed the equalizer to John Peter Ignalaga's 55th-minute marker.

"There's just something about the Unigames that brings out the best from the players," said USLS acting head coach Ramon Janeo, whose team is coming off a disappointing campaign in the local collegiate league topped by WNC.

Saligao reduced the Lady Archers to tears when she thwarted skipper Carissa Camara and Ma. Rosario Plaza in the shootout, after regulation and extra time ended scoreless.

Mae Salmon sent her penalty beyond Hannah Ibarra's reach to sew up the win for the Tigresses, who also avenged their penalty shootout defeat to the Lady Archers four years ago in Dasmariñas. Rocelyn Mendoza, April Reyes and Mary Ignacio of UST also scored during the shootout.

Over at the USLS college covered court, FEU capped its dominance of the week-long games with a 25-17, 25-21, 25-22 walloping of De La Salle-Dasmariñas for the men's volleyball title.

The Tamaraws also ruled men's basketball, athletics, chess, taekwondo and women's beach volleyball. Foundation U seized the men's beach volley crown late Sunday.

RP powerlifters reset Asian records

FILIPINO POWERLIFTERS SET NEW Philippine and Asian records at the recent 2007 World Open Powerlifting Championships in Soelden, Austria, according to a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Quoting the dispatch from the Philippine Embassy in Vienna, the DFA said the RP team capped its big show with a bronze medal.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the team also shone in a meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

Enrique Rafael Rosales captured the bronze in the 82.5 kg class with a bench press of 225-kg (495 lbs).

Erlina Pecante set two Asian Masters marks in the squat and total in the 82.5 kg class; Elvira Lorenzo nailed an Asian Masters record in the deadlift of the 52 kg class; and Jinky Santos rewrote RP marks in the squat and deadlift in the 48 kg class.

Cynthia D. Balana

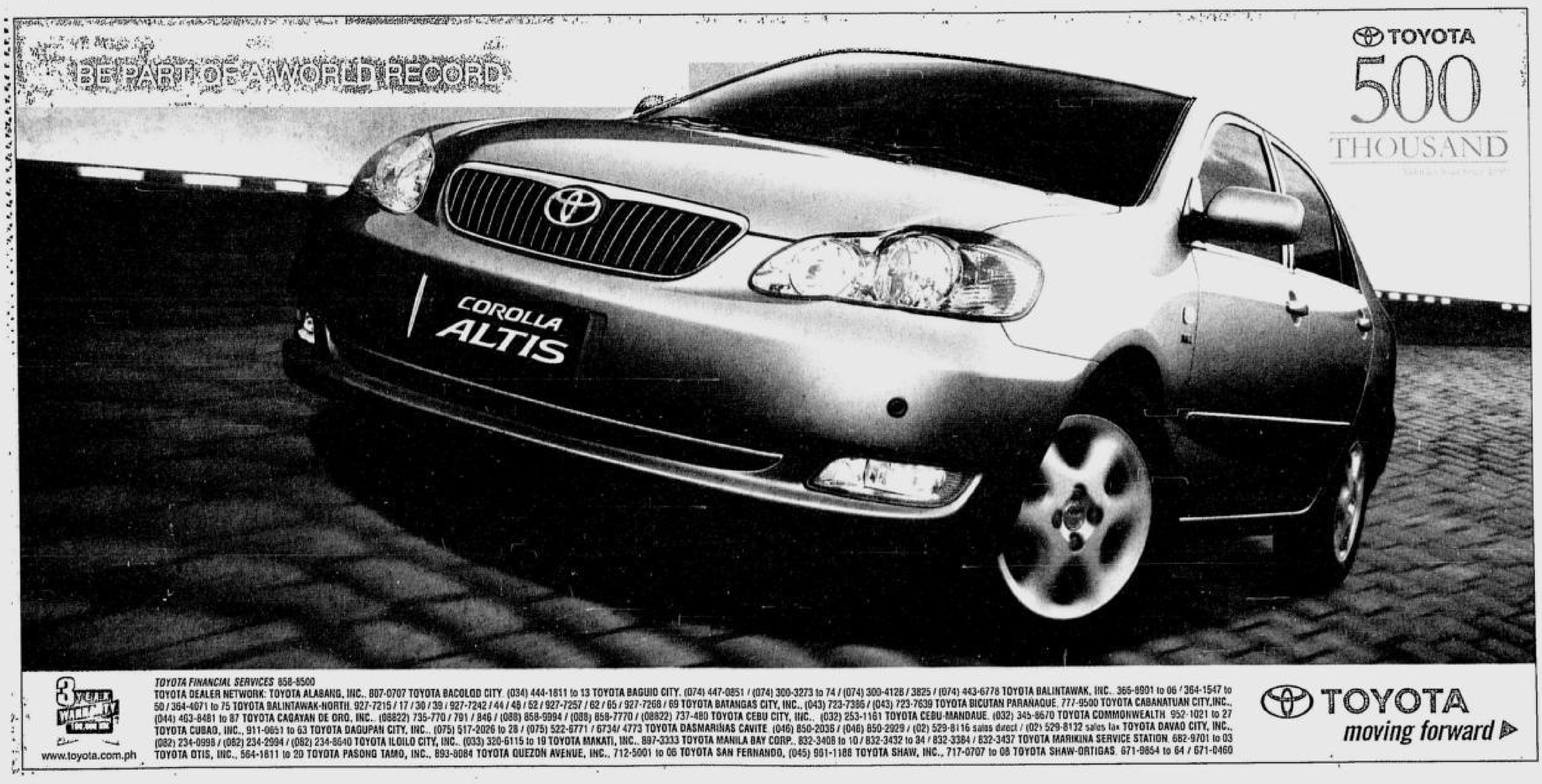
Sinag crosses finish line ahead of time

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—THE SINAG SOLAR car reached the finish line of the World Solar Challenge with over a day to spare, a remarkable achievement for the Philippines' first solar car to compete in the grueling 3,000-kilometer race against 40 other entries from around the world.

Sinag arrived in Adelaide at around 4 p.m., well ahead of the 5 p.m. cut-off for the day. The official results and rankings of all the WSC competitors will be tabulated and announced at the awards rites set Sunday at Adelaide's Victoria Square.

"The Philippine flag has reached Adelaide," said Sinag technical head Rene Fernandez as the car crossed the finish line, greeted by a flag-waving Filipinos.

The Sinag Solar Car was designed and built from scratch in less than a year by students from De La Salle University.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GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Bacchus vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs RP Team

THE HARBOUR-Philippine Team faces another tough test when it goes up against the league-leading Toyota Balintawak today in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup.

"I think we'll be tested against Toyota, Hapee and San Mig because they have many shooters," said coach Junel Baculi.

The Road Kings, powered by La Salle's backcourt tandem of JV Casio and Cholo Villanueva, will shoot for their third straight win against the nationals at 4 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Harbour Centre, also boasting of La Salle mainstays TY Tang and Rico Maierhofer, will gun for back-to-back triumphs versus the winless Bacchus Energy Drink at 2 p.m.

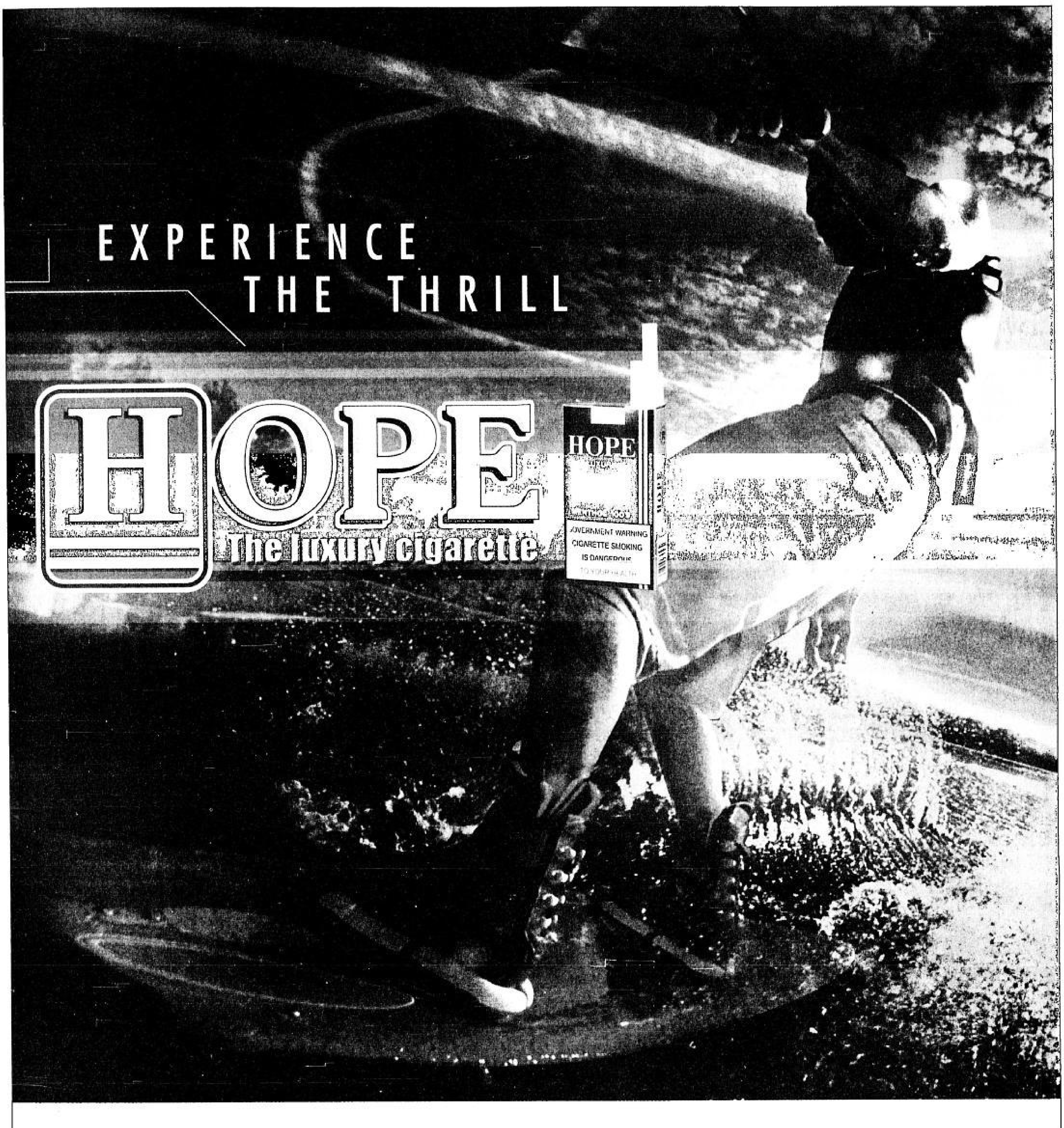
"We can still improve our level of play; we have to improve our defense," said Baculi of the Nationals, who are playing as a guest squad in the tournament in preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

The RP team strung up two straight wins versus bottom-dwellers Mail and More (94-84) and Bacchus (105-71) after a shameful opening-day loss to three-time champion Harbour (83-74).

Ex-pro Alex Crisano kept the Nationals steady by averaging 20 points in their last two games.

"This team is young and talented," the former Ginebra center said of his amateur teammates. "It took time, but we're already jelling as a team."

Jasmine W. Payo



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SPORTS

Red-hot Sox sweep Rockies in four games

THE Boston Red Sox celebrate after clinching their second World Series crown in four years. AP

DENVER—OVERWHELMING IN EVERY WAY, THE BOSTON RED SOX SWEPT to their second World Series title in four years as Jon Lester, Mike Lowell & Co. left little room for drama in a 4-3 win over the Colorado Rockies in Game 4.

This was hardly a repeat from 2004, when the Red Sox ended their 86-year championship drought by beating St. Louis. Boston is a major league bully these days, playing in rarefied air before crowds who demand to win.

"This team's got a lot of heart," Red Sox captain Jason Varitek said. "We worked really hard. We just beat a very, very good team, an excellent team."

After rallying from a 3-1 deficit against Cleveland in the AL championship series, the Red Sox won seven straight games and won their seventh World Series crown.

The Rockies, who won a remarkable 21 of 22 games to get this far, were a mere afterthought by the end. Brad Hawpe homered in the seventh inning and Garrett Atkins hit a two-run shot in the eighth that came too late.

Lester pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning and Jonathan Papelbon closed with his third save of the Series.

Lowell is MVP

Lowell won the MVP award, though Boston had plenty of candidates. Especially in a year in which Japanese stars Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima helped put the world in World Series.

"It took all 25 of us to get the job done," Papelbon said. "It's just phenomenal."

Lowell led a team that hit .333 in the Series with a home run, double and headfirst slide to score a run. Rookie Jacoby Ellsbury got it started with a leadoff double and, even without big contributions from sluggers Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, was too good.

Coors Field was filled with Red Sox fans, many of them brazenly waving brooms they might have brought from the Green Monster seats at Fenway Park.

The celebrations started early, with converted DH Ortiz raising his hand after a nice scoop at first base, and Lester pumping his fist after a key strikeout.

By the ninth inning, only one mystery really remained: What would happen to the ball from the final out?

This time, Varitek caught the final pitch as Papelbon threw his glove high in the air after striking out pinch-hitter Seth Smith and the Red Sox ran out and celebrated between the mound and first. AP

A-Rod opts out of Yankees contract

DENVER—ALEX RODRIGUEZ OPTED out of his $252 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees on Sunday in the end of his tumultuous career with New York.

Rodriguez's decision, announced by agent Scott Boras, makes the third baseman eligible to become a free agent.

Rodriguez loses the final $72 million in guaranteed salary in the record contract, which he signed with Texas before the 2001 season. The Yankees lose $21.3 million in remaining payments from the Rangers, a subsidy agreed to at the time of his 2004 trade. *AP*

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Sharapova gains final WTA berth

MADRID—MARIA SHARAPOVA CLINCHED the final place at the season-ending WTA Championships on Sunday.

Sharapova has qualified every year since winning on her debut in 2004.

"This has been a very frustrating year for me physically but I'm a big competitor and am determined to compete at the WTA Championships," Sharapova said.

Justine Henin, Jelena Jankovic, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Ana Ivanovic, Serena Williams, Anna Chakvetadze and Daniela Hantuchova have already qualified for the US$3 million event to be held from Nov. 6-11 at the Madrid Arena.

Venus Williams withdrew despite sitting seventh in the race standings. The Wimbledon champion hasn't recovered after experiencing dizzy spells at the U.S. Open.

Marion Bartoli is the first alternate. *AP*

NBA season starts Wednesday; Champ Spurs still team to beat

LOS ANGELES—THE DEFENDING CHAMPion San Antonio Spurs will try to accomplish a franchise first—back-to-back National Basketball Association titles—in the 2007-08 season that starts on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

San Antonio swept to its third title in five years—and their fourth in nine years—with a four-game sweep over the Cleveland Cavaliers in last June's finals.

But in a remarkably successful span—with championships in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007—the Spurs have never been able to win consecutive titles.

Essentially unchanged this season, the team led by superstar Tim Duncan and the ever-improving Tony Parker are nevertheless tabbed by their rivals as the team to beat.

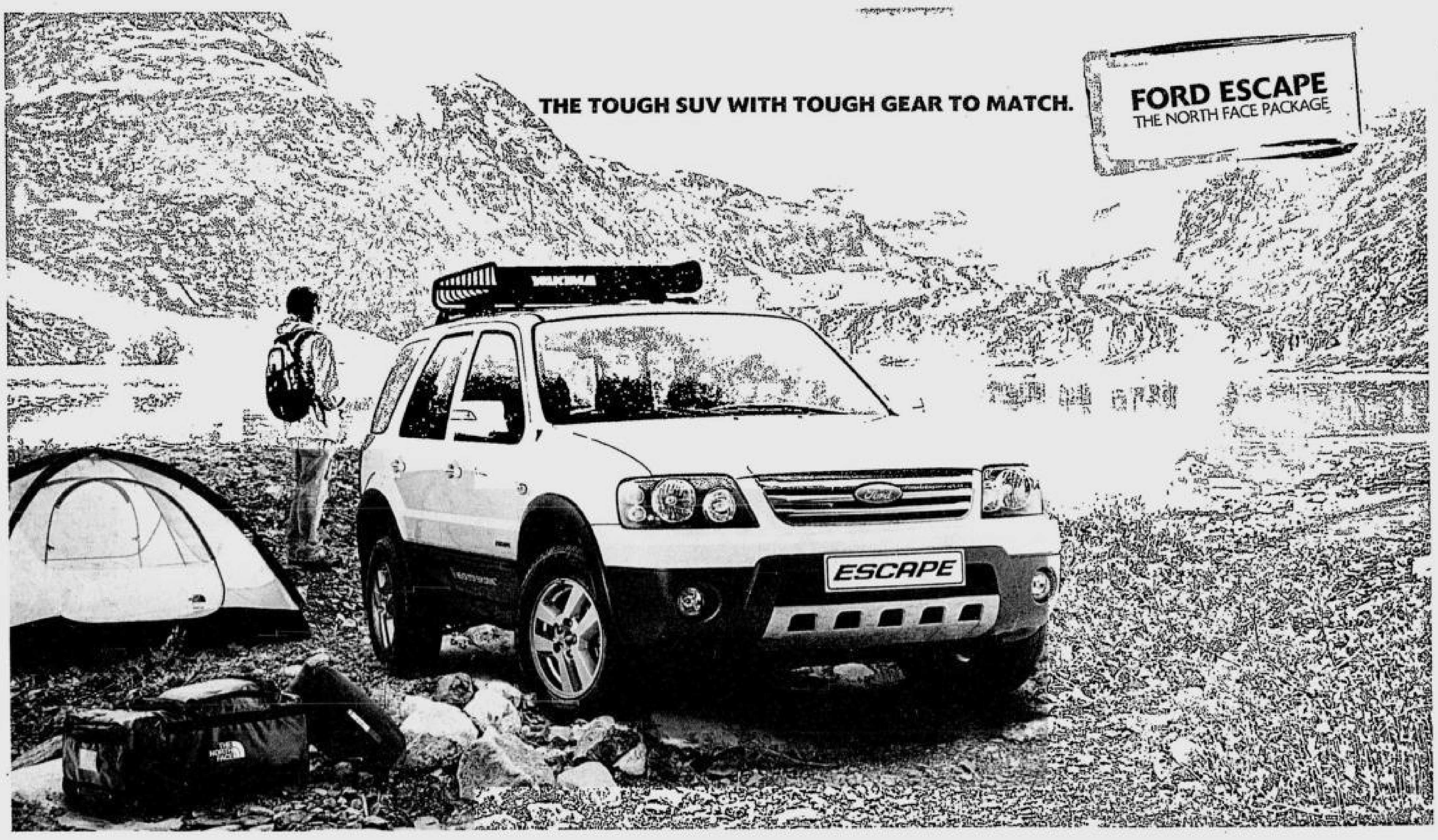
While the NBA balance of power is still tipped toward the Spurs and their Western Conference cohorts, the Boston Celtics have created a buzz in the East with the acquistion of All-Stars Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to play alongside longtime mainstay Paul Pierce.

NBA commissioner David Stern will be counting on a return to the court to turn fans' minds away from the disquieting spectre raised by disgraced referee Tim Donaghy, who has admitted betting on games he officiated.

Stern is also keeping an eye on a sexual harassment lawsuit against New York Knicks president and coach Isiah Thomas.

Teams gunning for the Spurs in the still powerful Western Conference will again include the Dallas Mavericks and Phoenix Suns.

Dallas, rebounding from their loss to Miami in the 2006 finals, won 67 regular-season games. They then imploded in the first round against the Golden State Warriors. *AFP*



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P2-M 6-stag finals kicks off

AFTER FIVE SEPArate eliminations, the much-awaited 3-stag championship of the P2-million "Tayo na sa Antipolo" 6-stag derby gets going at 5 p.m. today at the Blue Mountain Sports Arena in Cogeo, Antipolo City.

With only 15 entries garnering 3 points each after the eliminations, the competition remains wide open.

The fourth set of entries collide today for the right to join the undefeated bets or to qualify for the 3-stag finals. Sponsors are Thunderbird Bexan-XP and Enertone Ready-Mixed Concentrate.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Shut Up (9), Sir Frederick (10), Grand Homer (7), Andee's Rum/Victory Joe (3), Dark Cape (6)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—My Sheikh (1), Lovely Tara (6), Gold Collar (3), Beautiful Jaeda (7), Unang Apo (9)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sol Invictus (1), Goldsphere (8), Red Hot Water (6), Classic Royale (4), Do It David (9)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ultra Rose (1), Gunszup (2), Pride and Joy (10), Paramount (6), Pernicus (7)

Race 5—Dato's Pride (3), Macalelon (4), Go Go Elgene (6), Queen Banana (8)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—One Man's Soul (9), Lord Elgene (6), Devil Rising (4), Zaniga (10), White Princess (1)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Honest To Goodness (2), Leica N' Raven (3), Dancing Slew (7), Gorgeous Sand (9), Refreshing (8)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Five O'Clock (3), EMI Baby (2) Jigsaw Star (4), Teigeritic (5), Lady Inday (10) Queen Esther (1)

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US slowdown seen to hit RP hard

French bank says impact on Asian economies diverse

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES, WITH ITS HIGH DEPENDENCE ON EXPORTS, could be among the worst hit among Asia's developing economies by a looming slowdown in the US economy, French banking giant BNP Paribas said.

In its October global outlook, BNP Paribas said the expected softening of the US economy this year and next would have a diverse impact on Asian economies, depending on their export reliance in general, and that to the United States in particular.

To analyze the impact of an expected US slowdown on various economies in Asia, BNP Paribas used a simple scoring system that took into account the three key economic growth drivers for developing Asian economies—investment, consumer spending and net exports.

"Net exports remain, on average, the smallest contributor to Asian GDP (gross domestic product) growth, but Thailand and the Philippines score high at this phase of their cycles and hence remain susceptible to the impact of a US-induced export slowdown," the report said.

BNP Paribas noted that Thailand was already in the grip of a confidence-induced downturn that may take at least six months or more to reverse.

"For the Philippines, there is an additional negative consideration in that it has one of the highest export dependencies on the US among the Asian economies, (more than) 22 percent of the total, and is thus, in a sense, twice exposed," the report said.

India, on the other hand, was seen as fairly well insulated from any export-generated impact, having one of the lowest scores for the export driver.

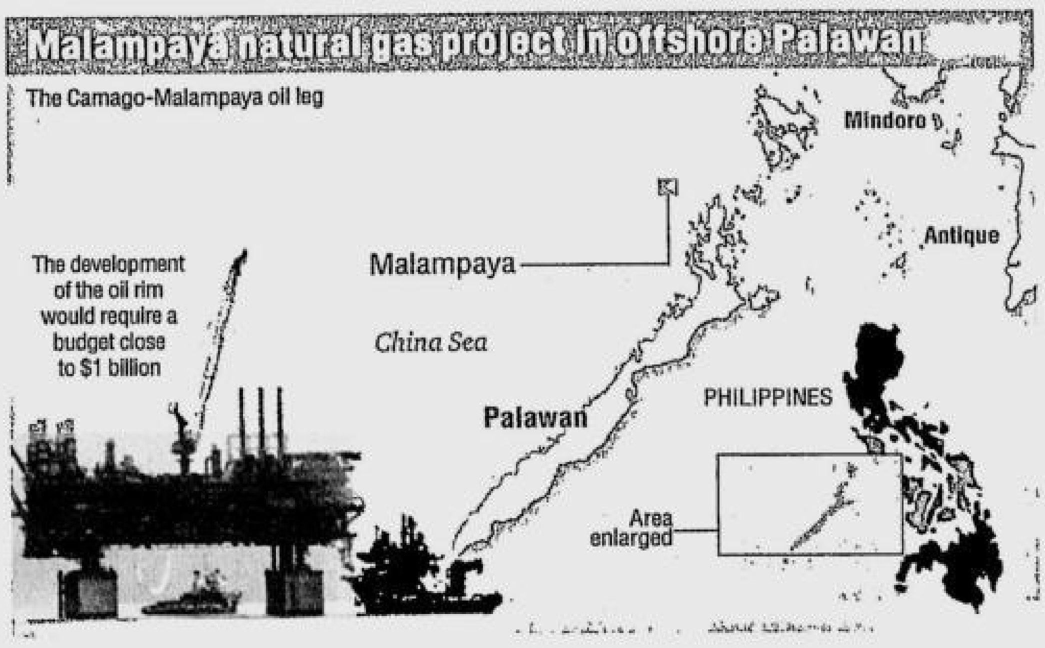
In a recent report released in Washington DC, the International Monetary Fund has urged emerging Asia to reduce overreliance on exports and increase exchange rate flexibility to avoid sowing the seeds of a new crisis 10 years after the devastating turmoil that caused an unprecedented currency freefall in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and South Korea.

The IMF examined growing concerns that Asia's export-oriented strategy might build up a new type of crisis—one triggered by shocks to external demand or the bursting of

US SLOWDOWN/ B3

Malampaya natural gas project in offshore Palawan

The Camago-Malampaya oil leg


The development of the oil rim would require a budget close to $1 billion
Malampaya
China Sea
Mindoro
Antique
Palawan
PHILIPPINES
Area enlarged

$1B needed to develop Malampaya oil field

By Abigail L. Ho

IT WILL TAKE CLOSE TO $1 BILLION TO develop the Camago-Malampaya oil leg, which lies beneath the gas reserves at the Malampaya deepwater gas-to-power project in offshore Palawan.

Rafael del Pilar, president of Malampaya consortium member PNOC Exploration Corp., said the development of the oil rim would require a capital expenditure budget of $400 million to $500 million, plus an operating expense budget of $300 million to $400 million.

However, he said there has yet to be a decision on how exactly the oil rim would be developed.

"We have a new energy secretary and he has to review that and look at all the angles. We just presented to him the options, what we've done so far and what we want to do," he told reporters.

He related that among the options being considered was for the oil leg to be developed by the Malampaya natural gas consortium, for the project to be undertaken by a third party or for PNOC-EC itself to extract the oil.

In a separate interview, Facundo Roco, general manager for external affairs at Malampaya consortium member Shell Philippines Exploration BV, reiterated that the company had already waived its right to develop the Malampaya oil reserves.

"It's still an unattractive proposition since it's very expensive to develop, especially now that there's high demand for drilling rigs," he said.

As for the entry of a third-party contractor, Del Pilar said there were still no final terms of reference for that as the development method for the oil rim has yet to be finalized.

If the first two options would not be chosen and the development of the Malampaya oil leg would be given to PNOC-EC alone, he said the state firm would finance the project using proceeds from its planned secondary offering.

PNOC-EC expects 60 percent of the government's share in it to be privatized within the first quarter of 2008.

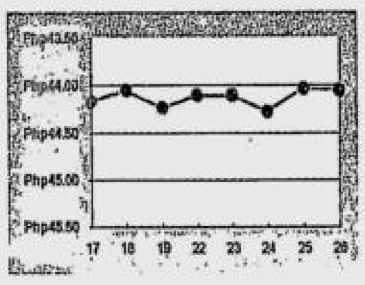
The state firm, parent Philippine National Oil Co. and financial advisers Citibank and ATR Kim Eng are studying how to structure the company's privatization.

Del Pilar said in an earlier interview that considering the strength of the stock mar-

$1B NEEDED/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2007

¥ 114.24 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, 2007

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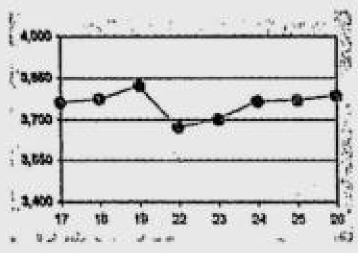
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 26, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Asian stocks hit new highs

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

ASIAN STOCKS STRUCK A record high yesterday and the dollar sank to an all-time low as investors bet the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this week to shore up the world's largest economy.

Strength in stocks looked set to spread to Europe where financial bookmakers expect gains of up to 1 percent for the three major European stock indexes.

A wilting dollar coupled with a brief halt to one-fifth of Mexico's production fired up oil prices, sending US crude above $93 a barrel for the first time. Gold rode on the coat-tails of oil to a 28-year high of $794.40 an ounce and other base metals such as copper also firmed on the weak dollar.

Japan's Nikkei average climbed 1.2 percent to a one-week closing high, while MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks was up 2.4 percent.

The MSCI index hit an all-time high near 588 and has risen more than 45 percent this year—triple the gains for MSCI's main world equity index.

Expectations for a US rate move was the major driver for markets at the moment, offsetting simmering worries that record high oil will fuel inflationary pressures.

"Most countries at the moment are coping with the high oil price, but the question is for how long before inflation starts to rear its ugly head again," said Anthony Muh, executive director at AllianceTrust Asset Management in Hong Kong.

"Investors are going to go from ignoring it one day to saying this is a problem overnight. In the end, its one of those very difficult period, but if you don't participate in the market, you're going to look very bad in terms of performance."

ASIAN/ B3

Fil-Am execs bullish, eye local ventures

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXECUTIVES FROM Fil-American companies were here on a six-day mission that wrapped up on Saturday amid an upbeat outlook among American firms about investment prospects in the Philippines.

Mission coordinator Gus Mercado said in a statement that 50 top executive and entrepreneurs from Texas and other parts of the United States and Canada also participated in the 33rd Philippine Business Conference held last week.

Mercado, who is also chair and chief executive of high-tech firm Datalogix Texas, the mission was made in response to the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo for US businessmen to do business in the Philippines.

He said the trade mission focused on information technology and telecommunications outsourcing and joint venture opportunities, as

FIL-AM/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE
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- **BIR urged** to abandon plan to lift excise tax exemptions /B2
- **PAL considers** secondary share offer in early '08 /B3
- **DBP plan** to tap $100M in soft loans OKd/B6

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BPO hub to rise in Mactan

Megaworld to undertake P2.5-B development of Cebu property

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MEGAWORLD CORP. OF TYCOON Andrew Tan plans to tap the rich human resource of Cebu by building a mixed-use office and leisure hub in Mactan.

Initially, the development of the 25-hectare BPO-leisure complex, near the Shangri-La Hotel in Mactan, is estimated to cost P2.5 billion, Megaworld executive director Kingson Sian said in a recent CitisecOnline.Com briefing.

Megaworld owns part of the property in the area and the company is planning to acquire the balance of the property, Sian said. Details of the project have yet to be finalized.

Cebu forms a vital leg in Megaworld's planned BPO triangle development concept, which includes Manila as the apex, and its recently acquired 54-hectare property in Iloilo, the site of an old airport.

"Iloilo and Cebu will garner a lot of the BPO companies because of the talent they have," Sian said.

For its Iloilo project, Megaworld will initially spend approximately P2.7 billion to acquire and develop the old airport lot into a business district.

Megaworld sees its project as a magnet for BPO firms interested in setting up shop in the Visayas region.

In addition to office buildings for the BPO industry, the project will host educational facilities geared toward providing value-added training to equip prospective employees with the necessary skills suited to the requirements of call centers and other BPO businesses that will locate at the site.

Iloilo is the center of commerce and education in Western Visayas, and is home to six universities.

Megaworld, on the other hand, is the pioneer developer of urban information technology, or BPO parks, in the country, starting with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority-accredited Eastwood City CyberPark in Quezon City.

At present, Megaworld is replicating its initial success in Eastwood City in other parts of Metro Manila. The projects include Newport City at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, and McKinley Hill at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

The firm has set aside P12 billion for capital expenditures next year.

Gov't in no shape to carry out tax relief, Senate told

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE wants the Senate to go easy on its plan to enact a law that will provide relief to all individual taxpayers.

The national government is still in no fiscal shape to grant tax relief, the DOF said in a position paper submitted to the Senate.

"We believe that the government can accommodate the proposals at hand, only when we are in a better and more stable fiscal position, which the Department of Finance targets to achieve over the medium term," the DOF said in the paper.

Currently, the National Internal Revenue Code provides seven tax brackets for individual taxpayers, depending on their annual income. The highest tax rate is at 32 percent while the lowest is 5 percent.

One of the bills pending at the Senate that seek to ease the tax burden of individual income earners was filed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. His bill provides for much lower income tax rates and increases the number of tax brackets from 7 to 13.

Another bill, authored by Richard Gordon, seeks to adjust the amounts of personal exemption to inflation once every five years. Under his bill, Gordon also proposed to exempt minimum wage earners from income tax.

A bill filed by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is supposed to exempt individuals earning P144,000 annually from the income tax. Estrada's bill proposes a single income tax rate of 35 percent in excess of P144,000 for all individuals earning over P144,000 a year.

By its own estimates, the DOF said Senator Enrile's bill would result in P52.39 billion in foregone revenue for the government, while that of Gordon would lead to potential losses of P54.48 billion.

The DOF noted that the government was still in the process of putting its fiscal house in order. By 2008, the government expects to hit its first budget surplus after 10 years of being in the red.

The DOF said that the government has already implemented measures to improve tax collection and balance the budget.

The DOF also reiterated its earlier proposal to simply exempt minimum wage earners from the income tax, which would result in a revenue loss of only P951 million a year—something the government can afford.

BIR urged to abandon plan to lift excise tax exemptions

CIGARETTE AND ALCOHOL FIRMS have called on the BIR to abandon its plan to remove outright the excise tax exemptions of export products.

In separate position papers, the companies said the BIR would be going against the country's Tax Code, not to mention the policy of the State to develop the country's export sector, if it were to lift the exemption.

The BIR's proposal to lift the excise tax exemption of products for export is embodied in a draft regulation that was subjected to a public hearing last week. Representatives of firms producing cigarette, alcohol and other products to be covered by the excise tax were present during the hearing and opposed the proposed measure.

"This proposed regulation disregards the declared policy of the State for the government and the private sector to jointly transform the Philippines into an exporting nation, being the key to national survival," said the distillers in a joint position paper submitted to the BIR Thursday. "Maybe the BIR's goal is revenue collection at all cost, but the State's goal is national survival. This can only be achieved [through] a reasonable tax system."

The distillers were Destileria Limtuaco & Co. Inc., Consolidated Distilleries of the Far East Inc., Tanduay Distillers Inc., IPI Distillers Inc., Asian Alcohol Corp., Central Azucarera De Tarlac, Absolute Chemicals Inc. and Far East Alcohol Corp.

In another position paper, La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory said there was nothing in the Tax Code that says excise taxes should be paid and then refunded once the products were proven to be exported.

The cigarette maker also said that the proposed regulations would slowly kill export businesses.

Under a draft revenue regulation, the BIR said exporters would still enjoy tax benefits, but the process of claiming the incentives would change. The BIR said the manner of granting incentives should be tightened because the government is losing revenue from false claims of exports.

BIR Commissioner Lilian Hefti said it was time to correct the poor practice of carelessly granting exemptions to all firms that claim to be exporters. Under the current practice, which she said leads to revenues leaks, the BIR does not collect excise tax from firms who claim to export their products.

Hefti stressed that the BIR was not trying to remove the incentive, contrary to the perception of some members of the industries concerned.

Michelle V. Remo

Fil-Am execs bullish, eye local ventures

From page B1

well as on possible business partnerships in finance, legal services, medical tourism, export and real estate.

Ethel Mercado, president of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce of Texas, said Fil-Am business leaders would "keep coming back to pay tribute to our homeland, without being discouraged by whatever circumstances prevailing during our visits."

She was referring to the Oct. 20 blast in the Glorietta 2 mall, which killed 11 people, spurring scares of a terrorist strike.

"Regardless of our current status in the US or how long we have been gone, we are Filipinos, first and foremost," she said.

Mercado said it was envisioned that mechanisms for bilateral exchange would be institutionalized to facilitate the business relationships between business people of both countries through the chamber network.

"Texas stands out as the Philippines' biggest trading partner among all the (US) states, with electronics, energy, aircraft and technical services as the leading exports," he said.

"IT outsourcing is a new frontier that US corporate giants like Sprint, IBM, Convergys, Verizon, Microsoft, TI (Texas Instruments), Dell and a host of smaller US companies are finding to be very worthwhile and appealing in the Philippines from cost and quality standpoints," he added.

Mercado said that as a former colony and long-time ally of the US, the Philippines enjoyed "tremendous advantages" over other countries that also provide outsourced services.

"Unlike other countries that have British orientation, the Philippine educational system, legal and political system, accounting practices and business protocols are patterned after the US," he said.

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Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	560,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	290,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	-
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Club Filipino	120,000	80,000
Eagleridge B*/C**	250,000*/350,000**	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	100,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/200,000**	50,000
Luisita Golf A	300,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	-	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	5,000,000	3,500,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	200,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/680,000**	150,000/280,000*
Mt. Malarayat A	160,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/380,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	150,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	290,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/130,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000	1,600,000
The Palms Country Club	340,000	320,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
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CURRENCIES

October 27, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.698275	1.000000	44.0610
Japan	Yen	0.006118	0.008762	0.3861
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432651	2.051700	90.4000
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090096	0.129027	5.6851
Switzerland	Franc	0.598864	0.857633	37.7882
Canada	Dollar	0.722702	1.034982	45.6023
Singapore	Dollar	0.479552	0.686766	30.2596
Australia	Dollar	0.633012	0.906536	39.9429
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.852631	2.653153	116.9006
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.186629	0.267272	11.7763
Brunei	Dollar	0.477911	0.684416	30.1561
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000109	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022203	0.031797	1.4010
UAE	Dirham	0.190168	0.272339	11.9995
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.432100	63.0998
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.001091	0.0481
China	Yuan**	0.093327	0.133654	5.8889
Denmark	Kroner	0.134185	0.192167	8.4671
India	Rupee	0.017745	0.025413	1.1197
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208223	0.298196	13.1388
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531089	0.760572	33.5116
Sweden	Kroner	0.108642	0.155586	6.8553
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021496	0.030784	1.3564

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 25, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 25, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	10,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	63	63	62	62	985,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69	70	69	70	1,713,500
748	536	China Banking Corp.	715	720	715	720	1,470
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	61.5	62.5	61.5	61.5	2,181,200
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	48.5	48.5	111,800
68	42	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	61	61	1,500
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	55	55	55	55	500
39.57	16.52	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28	28	27	27	1,483,600
90	58.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	76	76	76	102,800
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50.5	50	50	576,900
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp	4.1	4.1	4	4	280,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	5,346,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.5	14.25	13.5	14.25	2,902,400
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	300,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	600
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,342,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.45	11,044,000
3.1	1.1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	10,000
1,160.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,110.00	1,160.00	1,110.00	1,150.00	25,010
2,355.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,340.00	2,345.00	2,340.00	2,345.00	620
1.91	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	953,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	3,895,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	63	63	60.5	60.5	2,547,400
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85	86	85	85.5	952,700
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.25	6,781,100
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Co.	83	83.5	82	82	896,900
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	9,204,000
6.8	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.7	10,862,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8	8.3	7.9	8.1	438,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	90,000
2.3	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.64	2.3	1.64	2.2	62,093,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	94,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	277,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52	51.5	52	645,300
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	200,000
3.8	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	179,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	58.5	59.5	58.5	59	57,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61.5	62	61	62	65,600
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
6.5	2.12	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.7	6	5.7	6	25,000
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	12,003,400
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	160,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	459,000
2	0.48	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	2,845,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.55	1,196,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,000
0.75	0.17	[illegible] Resources Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	4,820,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.55	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	54,000
0.17	0.043	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	11,010,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.73	4,980,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	150,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	31,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	62,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,245,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	197,300,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.5	4,371,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.38	2,301,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	600	615	600	615	468,920
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	14.75	13.5	14.75	99,600
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.45	1,493,000
10.25	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,043,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.2	42,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	5,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	199,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	36,600
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	110,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.9	7	3,477,000
8.5	2.9	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.7	6.7	319,000
0.28	0.013	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.22	0.225	0.21	0.21	87,240,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	1,710,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	7,000
452.5	263.74	SM Investments Corp.	375	377.5	375	375	365,480
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	449,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	12,270,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	2	1.5	1.8	4,815,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	3,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	19,440,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	260,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	25,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	530,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	15,014,300
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	697,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	920,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	4,220,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	23,700,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	4,938,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.76	1.76	27,990,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	300,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.25	70,454,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	188,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	13,960,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,780,000
23	14.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.25	21,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.3	4.05	4.3	1,075,000
13.5	7.12	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12	8,428,500
3.25	1.22	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	255,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	720,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,152,000
		MEDIA					
36.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	34.5	32.5	34.5	308,400
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.5	9	8.5	8.9	745,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	60,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	183,000
1,745.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,725.00	1,730.00	1,715.00	1,720.00	62,320
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,060.00	3,070.00	221,880
8.1	4.95	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,374,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	8,670,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.6	98,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.8	9.1	8.7	9.1	2,363,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	35,500,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	3,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	1,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.19	4,860,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	47,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	14,400,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3	3.05	3	3	4,118,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	106,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	57,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40.5	41	40	41	2,564,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	41,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	35,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	10,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.4	3.4	29,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.63	0.67	0.63	0.67	4,030,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	2,200,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	48,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,315,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	2,000
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	42,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	18,000
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	1,003,600
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	215,500,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	965,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	65,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	6,018,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	13	12.25	13	54,000
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.5	11.5	9	11	12,809,000
3.1	0.57	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.48	2.5	58,910,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	19,650,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.37	7,840,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	91,900,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	22,000,000
30	1.98	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	24.5	24	24.25	2,362,400
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	242,500,000
9.8	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.8	18,303,000
43.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40.5	39.5	40.5	6,000
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.97	580,000
1.8	0.66	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.26	1.32	1.26	1.32	5,080,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.35	12,500,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	833,400,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	249,200,000
13.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	11.5	13.25	11.5	13.25	3,782,300
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	1,074,900,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	954.05 UP	1.87	30,382,500	533,677,850.00
Industrial	4,643.96 DOWN	3.85	120,938,600	936,553,325.00
Holding Firms	2,175.29 UP	40.01	417,241,600	556,835,000.00
Property	1,706.67 DOWN	7.11	179,848,500	744,128,510.00
Service	1,864.52 UP	0.27	84,598,300	980,695,545.00
Mining & Oil	8,229.00 UP	302.68	2,878,325,100	747,472,790.00
All Shares Index	2,348.53 UP	8.20		
PSEi	3,784.88 UP	17.10		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,711,334,600	4,499,362,520.0

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

PAL considers secondary share offer in early '08

Airline to use proceeds to purchase new planes

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PLANNED SECONDARY OFfering of PAL Holdings Corp. to raise funds for national flag carrier Philippine Airlines may push through early next year.

"It is possible to hold it ... maybe in the first quarter. We are still studying the market, (to) see when it may be favorable," PAL president Jaime Bautista said in a briefing.

PAL has also not closed the door on the possibility of tapping the banks for funds, although "it is better to use equity rather than borrowings," Bautista said.

Late last month, PAL Holdings announced plans to raise fresh funds for the flag carrier through a secondary offering of its majority shareholder, Trustmark Holdings Inc.

Trustmark was to sell 1.56 billion shares or 20 percent in PAL Holdings to qualified institutional investors within October.

The proceeds from this secondary offer were to be reinvested in PAL Holdings, which in turn would invest in additional shares in PAL.

Trustmark currently owns 97 percent of the holding company, which in turn controls some 84 percent of the airline.

PAL Holdings went as far as to obtain board approval to enter into an underwriting agreement with Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. for the deal.

A team of PAL and PAL Holdings officials had also arranged an investment roadshow in Europe, United States and Asia to promote the secondary offering.

But last week, PAL Holdings said in a statement sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had postponed the secondary offering because of "unfavorable market conditions."

The company also asked for the lifting of the suspension of the trading on its shares.

The suspension was imposed in the first week of October following the announcement of the planned share sale.

Noting recent increases in oil prices, Bautista said then that investors were expected to consider the effect of fuel costs on PAL's profitability.

Bautista said this year's delivery of five Airbus A320s would not be affected by the cancellation of the secondary offer because the activity was meant to fund future batches.

PAL will take delivery of seven A320s in 2008 for its regional and domestic service.

The company has also signed a deal to acquire six Boeing 777-300ER plans for long haul operations between 2009 and 2011.

BDO purchase of Amex approved

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has approved the buyout by retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro-EPCI of American Express Bank's local consumer banking operations.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Nestor Espenilla said in a briefing that the central bank's policy-making Monetary Board approved Thursday last week BDO's plan to buy 100 percent of American Express Savings Bank (AESB).

In a separate interview, BDO president Nestor Tan said: "The price is book value plus premium. We can not disclose the exact purchase price as we have a confidentiality issue with the seller."

But other banking sources estimated the deal to be worth P1-2 billion.

This transaction seeks to strengthen BDO's hold on the affluent consumer segment as it involves the purchase of the US bank's peso and US dollar credit card portfolios as well as the consumer banking services of AESB.

The deal also includes a partnership agreement that will allow BDO to issue American Express cards in the country.

BDO plans to eventually consolidate this business with its subsidiary BDO Private Bank, formerly Banco Sandander Philippines Inc.

The bank bought out the local business of Spanish bank Santander in 2003 and has since kept it as a separate commercial bank subsidiary focused on the upper-income market.

Although Amex has a very small banking operation in the country, it has a formidable niche in the high-end credit card business.

It has been issuing Amex credit cards in the Philippines for the last 90 years and holds a portfolio of high-spending customers, with balances and average spend levels far above those of competitors.

BDO acquired the business to consolidate its position in the credit card market while the partnership with Amex will allow the bank to capture more of the affluent market.

Meanwhile, Amex will continue to operate its other business in the Philippines, including the American Express Bank Ltd. offshore banking unit and the American Express Travel Joint Venture - American Express Transnational Inc.

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US slowdown ...

From page B1

credit and asset bubbles propped up by the large accumulation of foreign reserves needed to sustain competitive exchange rates.

BNP Paribas said the US credit crunch was likely to refocus the attention of Asian banks on their mortgage portfolios whether these assets had been securitized, structured or leveraged. It said three Asian economies with particularly active property markets may feel a contagion effect—Hong Kong, South Korea and, to a lesser extent, Singapore.

The credit crunch in the US, which has spooked global financial markets worldwide, was caused by rising delinquencies among subprime mortgages or housing loans extended to borrowers with blemished credit histories and little equity.

On the other hand, BNP Paribas said the impact on Asian economies of the widening of the spreads of Asian-issued US dollar-denominated debt paper, as well as the widening of spreads in dollar assets in general, was likely to be limited.

"The Philippines and Indonesia have tapped US dollar markets, especially the former, to cover fiscal deficits or infrastructure investment, but both raised funds in January-February this year and hence are unlikely to return to the markets," the bank said.

Asian stocks ...

From page B1

Lower US interest rates should boost economic growth in Asia's main export market, and also make equity valuations more attractive.

Among major markets in the region, South Korea's benchmark Kospi and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index both ended at record closing highs, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was at a fresh peak at the end of morning trade.

After two straight weeks of losses, Chinese mainland stocks rebounded, pushing the Shanghai Composite Index about 2 percent higher. *Reuters*

$1B needed ...

From page B1

ket, some of the shares to be privatized would be sold to the public through an additional listing.

PNOC-EC is already listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Part of the shares up for privatization would be sold to a "cornerstone investor," similar to the privatization method adopted by PNOC Energy Development Corp., he said.

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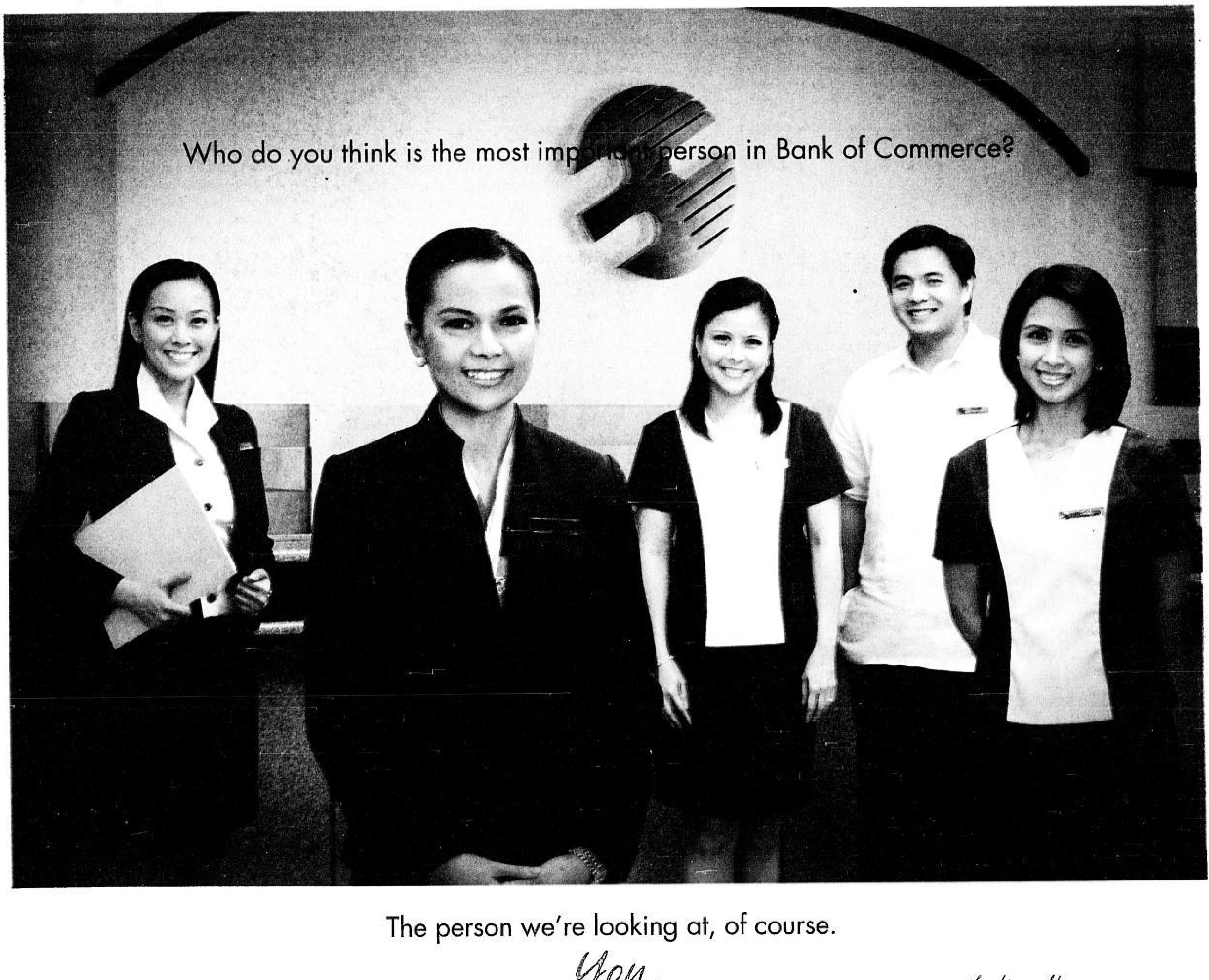
PRESS CLUB Bldg. A. Velez cor. A. Luna Sts.
Cagayan De Oro City T (088) 857-5795 857-6333
GOLDSTAR
Door 2, Lua Bldg. Quirino Ave
Cor. J P Laurel St. Davao City
T (082) 2270321-23 F (082) 2270321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We Proudly Celebrate...

10
Toyota Batangas City, Inc.
TOYOTA
ANNIVERSARY
years

MESSAGES

It has been a decade since we, Toyota Batangas City Inc. opened our doors to serve and cater to our own southern tagalog market. Difficult as it was, we have been able to bring to you the best of Toyota Automotive products and quality service.

We thank, above all, the Almighty for these ten years. We are also greatful to our valued customers for accepting us and our products.

Lastly, we are greatful indebted to our principals, Toyota Motor Philippines, our stockholders, our officers, managers, and especially our employees for their dedication in giving their best to deliver our products and services to our valued clients.

MABUHAY ANG TEAM TOYOTA
MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT

Jose C. Laurel V
Chairman

Toyota Batangas City has achieved a decade - a milestone.

For this achievement, we are grateful to the Lord Almighty for providing us the strength to endure all the trials that we had to undergo as well as the blessings that we now enjoy!

We also give thanks to the men and women of Toyota Batangas City for their unwavering trust, loyalty and hardwork. Without them, we will not have made 10 years.

To our business partners, we say maraming salamat for your support and faith in our dealership. Your belief in our organization has been an inspiration to all of us.

To Toyota Motors Philippines, we thank you for your unending assistance and cooperation to help us attain our dream of a strong Toyota Batangas.

Finally, to our customers who continue to believe in us and entrust their precious vehicles. We pray that we may forever be empowered to live up to your expectations.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!!!

Francis C. Laurel
President & Chief Executive Officer

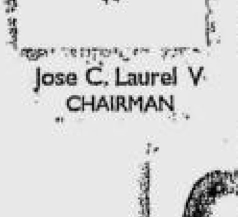
I would like to congratulate Toyota Batangas City, Inc. for its tenth year anniversary! Since the establishment of TBC in October 30, 1997, it has been consistent in its dedication to achieving the highest standards of a Toyota Dealership.

Such performance has made TBC win the President's Cup twice and of course, has contributed to the success of Toyota in Southern Luzon. As TBC celebrates this occasion, let it be a reminder that success comes from its Team Members having the passion for continuous improvement.

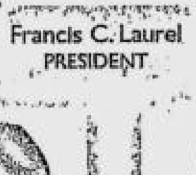
Keep up the good work Team Tòyota Batangas! TMP will continuously support your endeavors in the years to come!

Hiroshi Ito
Toyoto Motor Philippines President

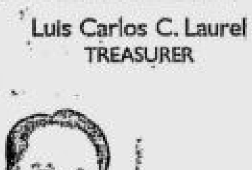
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



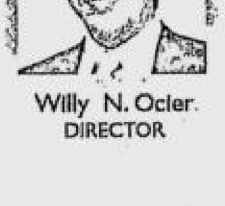
Jose C. Laurel V
CHAIRMAN



Francis C. Laurel
PRESIDENT



Luis Carlos C. Laurel
TREASURER

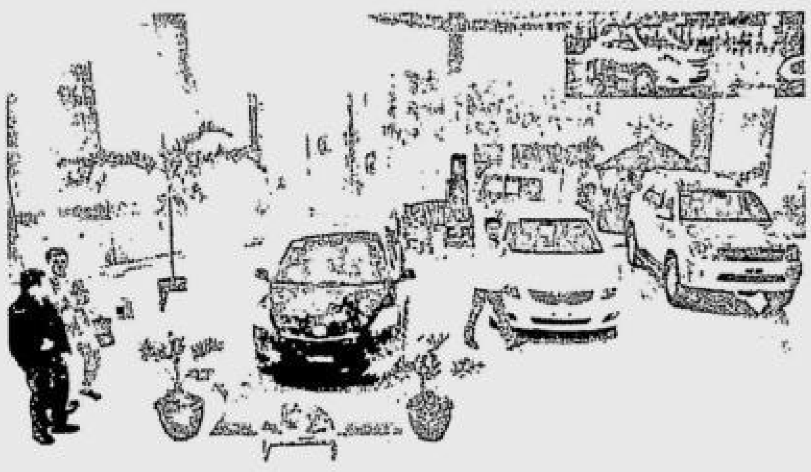


Willy N. Ocler
DIRECTOR

Fernando L. Imperial
DIRECTOR

Toyota Batangas
The TOYOTA

HONESTY AND EXCELLENCE - Sales Parts S



Meeting a Challenge, Satisfying a Need

1997 – The year of the Asian economic meltdown. Business' prospects were gloomy. It wasn't the best time to start anything. It was the year Toyota Batangas City opened.Bold venture, was the term kindly friends described it; insane was what detractors called it. Beyond these points of view loomed a big picture that only the owners could see, and that was: Batangas and the whole length of Luzon going south was in dire need of a Toyota dealership that would provide its dynamic population the products and services of one of the world's most respected _ and now the No.1_ brands.

Still, questions kept popping up: "Couldn't you have waited for a better time to launch the dealership?" "Why the rush?" The answers were always: No. First, because commitments had already been made to all stakeholders- investors, banks, staff, customers, and to the citizens of Batangas City and surrounding areas. Second, because the market's need for quality products and services would not go away regardless of economic conditions- it was a constant need that had to be satisfied.

These same answers underscored the principles upon which are based the Vision, Mission and Core Values of Toyota Batangas City.

Corporate Philosophy
The basic foundation of dealership is organization. In line with the company's program to have a strong team, we have to brace ourselves, ensure strong cooperation and teamwork among our team members. In so doing, challenges will be overcome and competition shall always be faced with optimism. The success of our dealership is in the hands of all team members.

"Whoever you are... Whatever you do, Be the best."
- Jose P. Laurel

Vision
To be recognized as the trusted Toyota Dealer that provides the highest quality Sales and After-Sales service in the Southern Tagalog Region.

Mission
To continuously upgrade technical and people skills in order to ensure that customers always enjoy service beyond their expectations.

To always and ever uphold the ethical principles of honesty and excellence in our professional and personal conduct.

TOYOTA
GENUINE PARTS

Dealership Success

If truth be told, the Toyota Batangas City's road to success wasn't paved with stars. The first five years, while substantially productive in terms of professional development for the staff, were not always profitable for the dealership because of the prevailing economic conditions brought about by the regional crisis of 1997. However, true to the Batangueno traits of persistence and diligence, and a never-say-die mindset, the company marched on. Its consistent efforts at providing high quality maintenance and repair services which satisfied all types of customers spawned a wide network of clientele whose word of mouth endorsement eventually sent other vehicle owners trooping to the dealership. By the end 2002 Toyota Batangas City was on its way to leadership in the southern sector.

City, Inc.

f the South

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Toyota Batangas City
TOYOTA
TOYOTA

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What Makes a Customer Oriented Dealership

It starts with people... and ends with, well, people. Toyota Batangas City personnel, regardless of their area of competency, are united by one goal: To render service beyond the customer's expectations. Hence, a major criteria applied in the selection of employees is the personality fit of the candidate- he or she must not only naturally like people but must also have an empathetic, helpful attitude. Once established, this is matched with competence evaluation in their desired position. Next is orientation and training in the company's goals, systems and values.

What comes out of this development process is a staffer whose innate sense of empathy and clear understanding of customer expectations enables him to respond promptly to customer needs.

"Car buyers are not just looking for wheels to get them from point A to point B but view cars as in way an extension of themselves. So we are happy to help them identify exactly what type, model, color, and yes! even accessories they want for their new car."

-Brenda Mary V. Raule
Customer Relations Manager

"Because a car is significant investment, we try to help buyers get the best financing for their cars so they don't get burdened by high amortization costs."

-Marilou M. Bulanhagui
Finance & Admin Manager

TEAM MEMBERS

"The dealership sits on a 9,898 square meter plot along the main highway to the port. The building was, as it still is, modern and elegant, and could display as many as seven cars. In '97 there was little traffic passing our way because the road was still not widened and ours was the only commercial establishment in the area, so that if you wanted to go to our dealership you more or less had to go out of your way. Our staff numbered 62, Batanguenos all and most of whom were young first-timers in the business. But what they lacked in experience they made up for with enthusiasm and a zest for learning the ropes."

"Ala e, Batangueno ire!"

-Henry D. Pablo - General Manager
10 Year Service Awardee

(From L-R) Marilou M. Bulanhagui - Finance & Admin. Manager, Brenda Mary V. Raule - Customer Relations Manager, Henry D. Pablo - General Manager, Eric M. dela Rosa - Vehicle Sales Manager, Prudencio G. Perez - Parts & Service Manager

"We have the most up-to-date automotive equipment in the whole of Batangas. This gave us the competitive edge we needed as a new entry. It gave our mechanics confidence in the quality of service they could give customers. In turn, it assured our customers that any problem they had with their vehicles could be quickly and ably solved by us."

-Dennis G. Perez- Parts & Service Manager
10 Year Service Awardee

As Toyota Batangas City celebrates its 10th Anniversary, it takes pride in awarding its pioneers for their steadfast dedication and unstinting efforts in making the dealership what it is today.

10-Year Service Awardees

(From L-R) Delfin M. Padilla - Shop Superintendent, Girlie T. Arasula - Insurance Coordinator, Ricky L. dela Peña - Service Advisor, Winnie R. Pasahol - Audit Supervisor, Jay M. Aclan - Parts Admin. Head, Marilou M. Bulanhagui - Finance & Admin. Manager, Henry D. Pablo - General Manager, Brenda Mary V. Raule - Customer Relations Manager, Prudencio G. Perez - Parts & Service Manager, Riza M. Rabago - Service Admin. Head, Ronel A. Cueto - Systems Administrator, Cynthia M. Bobadilla - TOPSS Operator, Ricardo B. Manalo IV - Credit & Collection Head, Celia M. Pablo - Accounting Head.

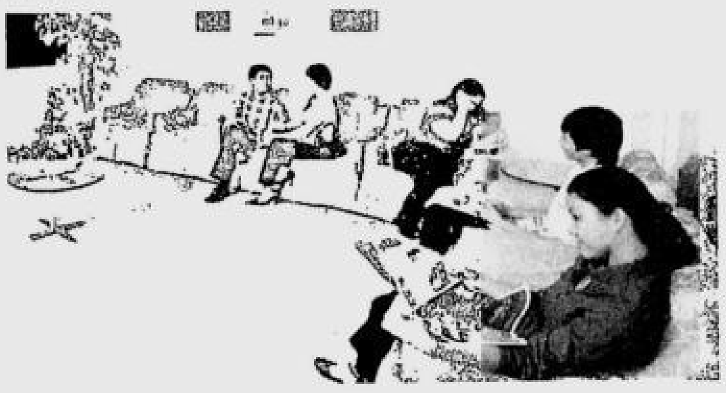
Our Relationships are for Keeps

If one were to ask a Toyota Batangas City employee how the company keeps its customers and attracts new ones, his answer, in all probability, would be "Because we are honest and do a good job all the time". The reply sounds righteous, boastful and self-promoting, true enough. But to a group of people whose corporate culture is steeped in time-tested traditional values, how else to put it? Plain talk is what it is. At Toyota Batangas, plain talk is what assures the customer he is getting a fair deal.

Honesty and Excellence are, after all, the core values the company subscribes to. Together they build trust. How does this work in real life? Because the company believes every job it undertakes is a step towards developing a relationship with the customer, employees make sure that he/she is informed of everything that has to be done to his vehicle, how much it will cost, how long the repair/replacement/etc. will take, and what other possible repairs and attendant costs may arise from it. In brief, there is total transparency in the transaction. All jobs are guaranteed; in the unlikely event of a newly replaced part breaking down, replacement is free of charge, both part and labor. To customers it doesn't get any better than that. Proof of customer trust: First-time buyers in 1997 have been coming back to buy their new Toyotas from the dealership.

Customer Quotes –
"...dito sa Toyota Batangas e napaka-maalaga ng mga tao nila. Aba, e pati security guard sinasalubong ka ng payong pag umuulan"

" Ang sabi dun sa talyer sa bayan e hindi din raw makukumpuni nang mura ireng electrical ng kotse ko. Pero dito nagawa, at ayos numan ang presyo. Madali pung natapos!"

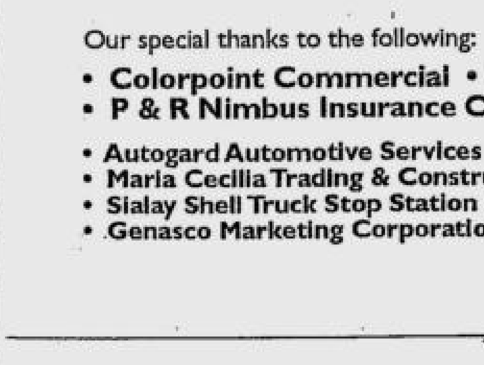


An excellent gauge of how a company values its customers' comfort and safety is the environment it puts them in. Clean is good, but spic and span is better. From the front where the Showroom is to the backyard where cars are parked, customers who wander into the dealership are struck by its remarkably clean and well-maintained infrastructure. And so as not to make customers feel isolated and unaware of how their vehicles are being handled by mechanics, the 2nd floor airconditioned customers' lounge has a wall-to-wall window that overlooks the repair shop below. Refreshments and reading materials are on hand at all times.

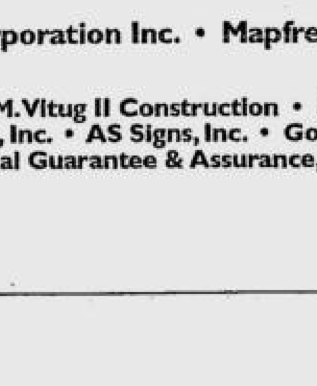
On The Road To Leadership

Getting there is no picnic; but it doesn't have to be torture either. To ease the journey and make it as much as possible fun and productive at every turn, company staff development programs are focused on continuing skills upgrades and participation in industry activities. The belief is, there is no better test of superiority except in competition.

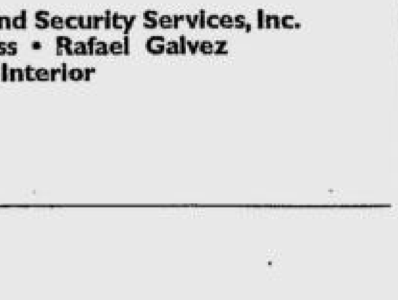
Toyota Batangas City's relentless drive to provide its customers unparalleled service excellence has garnered for it a slew of awards others would be hard-pressed to match. Citation certificates, plaques and trophies won in the Technical, Marketing, Customer Care and Dealer Performance take pride of place at the very entrance of their showroom... ample assurance that customers' wants and needs are always topmost in the minds of all staff.



- 2004 Presidents Cup of Excellence - Best Dealer in Customer Satisfaction
- 2005 Presidents Cup of Excellence - Best Dealer in Customer Satisfaction
- 2006 Overall Dealer Performance Award



- CHAMPION - Service Skills Olympics for the 15th Service Advisor Category
- 2003 Customer Satisfaction Achievers Award
- 2003 Toyota Touch Award for Parts & Service
- 2003 Toyota Touch Award for Vehicle Sales



- 2Q 2005 Best CCCS Awards
- 2Q 2006 Best CCCS Awards
- Toyota Service Skills Olympics - Service Advisor Champion

Our special thanks to the following:

- **Colorpoint Commercial • DMS Industrial & Chemical Resources, Inc. • Malayan Insurance Corporation Inc. • Mapfre Asian Insurance Corporation**
- **P & R Nimbus Insurance Consultants, Inc. • Standard Insurance Inc. • Talking Point Inc.**

- **Autogard Automotive Services • Babylin's RTW Collection Shop • Extron Petro Industrial Sales • Fernando M. Vitug II Construction • Leomar Protective and Security Services, Inc.**
- **Maria Cecilia Trading & Construction • Shermarrose Printhaus • TF Logistics Phils., Inc. • Wuerth Philippines, Inc. • AS Signs, Inc. • Goldmine Printing Press • Rafael Galvez**
- **Sialay Shell Truck Stop Station • Winter Snow Marketing • Delsa Chemicals & Multi-Products, Inc. • Prudential Guarantee & Assurance, Inc. • Stallion Auto Interior**
- **Genasco Marketing Corporation • Glory's Comet Trading & Services**

DBP plan to tap $100M in soft loans OKd

Part of programmed P42.3B in ODA borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPinas has approved Development Bank of the Philippines' plan to tap $100 million worth of official development assistance for healthcare investment projects.

Based on BSP documents, the soft loan would be jointly provided by the Asian Development Bank and German development lender KfW, each will shell out $50 million.

The package includes a $1-million grant component.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board approved the plan in principle during its meeting on Thursday. This means DBP could start negotiating with the lenders and then submit the final terms to the central bank for final approval.

All local and foreign borrowings by public entities—the national government, state corporations and financial institutions—require approval from the BSP. In line with its mandate to promote financial stability, the central bank is responsible for preventing the bunching up of debt maturity.

Even private corporations are required to seek imprimatur from the BSP on their foreign borrowings if they will source foreign exchange from the banking system for repayment.

The soft loan sought by the DBP from the ADB and KfW for healthcare investments will mature in 15 years, with a grace period of two years, and carry an interest rate of 2.9 percent per year.

This soft loan is in line with DBP's plan to tap P42.3 billion in ODAs from foreign bilateral and multilateral donors to fund "high-impact" development projects given the growing economy's huge demand for infrastructure financing.

In a recent press briefing, DBP president Reynaldo David said the bank had so far mobilized P59.95 billion for priority development projects nationwide as the bank continued to support key sectors critical to an emerging economy. The amount—extended to infrastructure and logistics, small and medium enterprises, social services and environment projects—represented 86 percent of its total loan portfolio while the remaining 14 percent went to industrial projects.

Cell phone racket

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF I WERE A DECENT HUMAN BEING, INstead of just a nosy reporter, I would have done the same thing as this woman named Pia Avanceña.

According to reports, she recently fled the country, together with husband Ricky, because of death threats coming from her former employer.

The company supposedly belongs to a Chinese-Filipino family.

Little known as it is, the company nevertheless makes hundreds of millions of pesos as a seller of "ring tones" and "wallpapers."

Those are called "contents" in the cellular phone business, and the company sold them to prepaid subscribers of a leading telecommunications company.

The market for such contents is estimated at seven million subscribers, and Pia's former employer is said to have cornered nearly half of it.

It seems that Pia discovered a racket in the company, done unto unsuspecting subscribers. The company sends prepaid subscribers a ring tone, for instance, and then without much ado, bills them automatically. Yes, whether you want it or not!

And so, by now, the company must have already raked in billions of pesos out of the racket.

Knowing it was against the law, i.e. rules of the National Telecommunications Commission or NTC, the policeman of the cellular phone business, Pia reportedly confronted the owners.

After an exchange of harsh words with them, she had no choice but to resign. It was not the end of it, however, because poor Pia received death threats afterwards. That's why she fled the country with her husband.

Both Ricky and Pia come from prominent families. Ricky is the grandson of former President Manuel Quezon, while Pia is the daughter of the late former Senator Raul Roco.

Yet they were forced to flee the country! I mean, really, if a person like Pia (remember - she is a Roco) cannot be safe here, just because she has a conscience, who among us down here in my *barangay* is not in danger?

More interesting still is this question from a close friend of mine, a woman who probably feels for poor Pia: How could the content provider perpetuate the racket without help from some insiders in the cellular phone company?

Really, what is our beloved NTC doing about it?

* * *

AT FIRST, businessman Joey de Venecia, the son of Speaker Jose "Yoda" de Venecia, insisted on referring to the Lola at the Palace as "my president."

Such an obvious A-kissing tactic brought chuckles to our contacts in business. I guess he just proved them right.

The son of Yoda just changed his mind, saying (with a lot of media coverage, of course) that the corruption that he himself (and nobody else but him) claimed to have taken place in the NBN-ZTE deal, well, all started with the person who used to be "my president" to him.

* * *

SPLASH Corp., the Filipino company making headway in the huge market for "personal care" products (you know, skin whitening), which is still dominated by multinationals, just completed the roadshow for its IPO.

That was mainly in Manila and Cebu, where you can find most of the country's high-networth individuals.

Anyway, our contacts in banking said that, based on the roadshow, the Splash IPO may have attracted so much interest that it may become the largest oversubscription for any IPO this year.

From a start-up capital of P12,000 as a backyard mom-and-pop business in the 1980s, the company is now a P4-billion concern. I just think the finance guys are taking it from there.

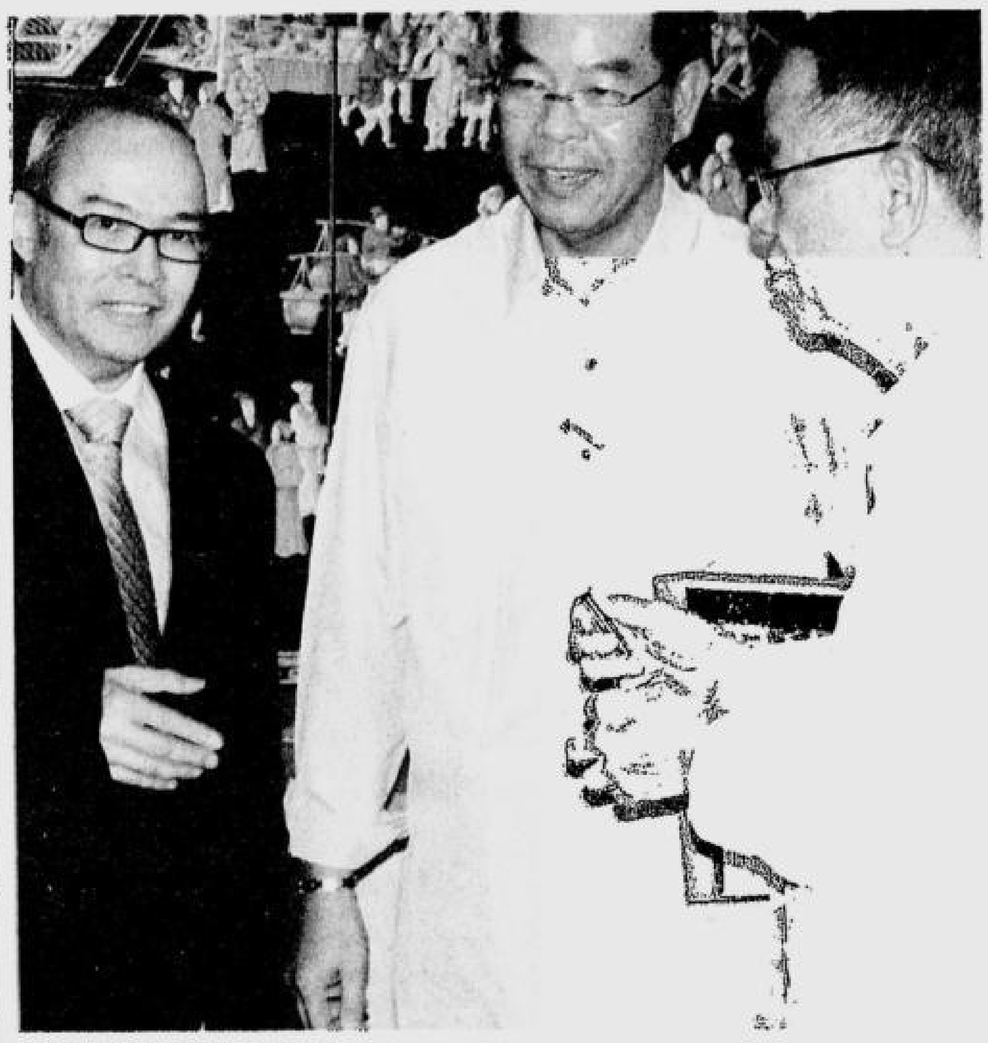
Landbank expands in US

LAND BANK OF the Philippines has expanded its operations in the United States with the recent opening of a second remittance unit in San Francisco, California.

In a statement, bank president Gilda Pico said the new office would complement the services of its main remittance office in Panorama City, California and accommodate the growing volume of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and other Filipino expatriates in the US.

"With these two offices, we hope to address the needs of OFWs in California for a more accessible and faster means of sending their hard-earned money to their families," Pico said.

Doris C. Dumlao



DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA
Emmanuel P. Bonoan (left), COO and vice chair of KPMG Manabat Sanagustin and Co., chats with Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry chair emeritus Lucio Tan (right) and corporate secretary Jose Ngaw (center) before the start of a seminar on "Emerging Markets: Doing Business in China." The seminar was conducted by the accounting firm for the FFCCCII at its headquarters in Binondo.

Local company to invest $110M in CNG plant, refilling stations

By Abigail L. Ho

CALLANDRA LCNG FUELS CORP., a local firm backed by overseas investors, plans to invest between $77 million and $110 million in the country's compressed natural gas (CNG) industry in the next three years.

In an interview with reporters, Callandra president and chief executive Randall Antonio said the company had a pending application for accreditation with the Department of Energy for the establishment of CNG facilities here.

The company's planned investment, he said, would be for a CNG plant in Batangas and six CNG refilling stations, ideally in Metro Manila, each with an initial capacity to serve 2,500 buses.

Groundbreaking for Callandra's first CNG refilling station should take place by the first quarter of 2008, with completion and start of commercial operation seen by 2010.

"Our plans are really dependent on the commitment and endorsement we will get from the DOE and on (the Shell Companies in the Philippines') decision with regard to gas supply," he said. "For the DOE accreditation, we're already on the final steps and procedures to get our accreditation."

For the gas supply, should there be not enough gas to spare from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project, he said Callandra could import gas from Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar and even Iraq.

Once all issues are resolved and the company's first refilling station is in commercial operation, buses running on CNG would have more refilling options, he said.

However, the CNG that Callandra would be selling would not be priced as low as those sold at Shell's daughter station along South Luzon Expressway in Binan, Laguna.

"We'll be selling at commercial rates and not at the pilot rate of P14.52 a liter. Even then, CNG will still be priced 25-30 percent lower than diesel," he said.

Shell's mother-daughter stations are part of the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year pilot program that will peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

As part of the pilot program, Shell had exclusive rights to the area that it was currently in. Other entities interested in putting up CNG facilities could do so in other areas.

Definitive land use plan for farm sector sought

By Amy R. Remo

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY HAS URGED the government to come up with a definitive "land use" plan to ensure the security of tenure of agricultural, poultry and livestock farms.

In a joint position paper, the United Broiler Raisers Association and the National Egg Board said concerns about the lack of security in farm tenure had slowed down the flow of investments into the sector.

"At present, there is no definitive land use plan, whether national or local," the groups said, adding that there was an urgent need to identify the areas that had been set aside for various agriculture purposes.

According to the position paper, a clear case in point is what happened to poultry farms that were damaged or destroyed by typhoon Milenyo in the latter part of 2006.

"The farms were no longer granted permits by local governments to rebuild their structures. They were told that their locations were not agricultural anymore," it said.

The poultry industry groups also said in the paper that the trend toward reclassifying agricultural lands was the reason why most poultry and livestock farmers were wary of programs to put up farm-to-market roads "because they just become subdivision-to-highway roads."

Building farm-to-market roads is among the Department of Agriculture's thrusts, aimed at increasing productivity and farmers' income.

These roads allow farmers and fisherfolk to bring their produce faster to wet markets and distribution centers, thus reducing losses arising from spoilage during transport.

Ubra and the Egg Board added that some farms were also displaced in favor of real estate developers.

"This trend bodes ill for the agricultural sector unless a national and/or local land use plan is created," they said.

According to the two organizations, they believe that if both the government and private sector address these concerns, it will benefit not only the P150-billion poultry industry and its allied sectors, but also the consumers.

"These concerns are strategic in nature as they look forward to the sector's competitiveness in the long-term," they said.

In the first half of the year, the poultry industry, which accounted for 13.12 percent of the country's total agricultural output, posted a 0.22 percent growth.

At current prices, this sector grossed P53.8 billion, up 6.9 percent from P50.3 billion last year.

Local BPO industry seen to outgrow major competitors

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS process outsourcing (BPO) industry is expected to outgrow its rivals in China, India and Malaysia.

A report of independent ICT research and advisory firm XMG indicated that the Philippines' BPO sector was expected to generate $4.1 billion in revenue by the end of this year. It is also seen to post a compounded yearly growth rate (CAGR) of 62 percent and corner 1.4 percent of the global market, which is $297 billion and growing by 19.31 percent yearly.

"The Philippine outsourcing industry has far exceeded all analysts' expectations," XMG founding president and chief analyst Lauro Vives said in a statement.

"The Philippines is experiencing an unprecedented growth rate of 62 percent CAGR and will surpass Malaysia."

Malaysia's revenue forecast by the end of this year was placed at $3.6 billion, representing a 38-percent growth and cornering 1.2 percent of the global market share.

In 2006, Malaysia and the Philippines was neck-and-neck with 1.04 percent and 1.02 percent shares, respectively, of the global revenue pie.

XMG's market study also scrutinized the performance of two other top Asian offshore locations, namely India and China.

India is expected to corner $34.1 billion in total revenue by the end of 2007 at 29.5 percent CAGR and a global market share of 11.5 percent.

Despite the lower growth rate, XMG estimates India will continue to lead the offshore segment through 2010 with at least 15 percent share.

China is estimated to have 4.4 percent share of the global market with 2007 total revenue figure seen to hit $13.1 billion, growing at 47.9 percent CAGR.

The scope of the global market in this study covers both onshore and offshore delivery of outsourcing services. The study is part of XMG's year-to-end forecast conducted in the fourth quarter to estimate yearend performance of the global outsourcing market.

Looking forward to 2008, the outsourcing market is expected to continue growing despite anticipated "turbulence."

XMG said the cost of operations in top outsourcing destinations is increasing due to wage hikes needed to retain good people, coupled with rising real estate prices and the effect of accelerated currency appreciation in Asia.

RP OUTSOURCING sector projected to post a compounded yearly growth rate of 62 percent and corner 1.4 percent of the $297-billion global market.

OBITUARIES

JOSE ILIGAN INOTURAN

of Lilo-an, Malinao, Aklan

Founding President, Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 28, 2007
at the age of 93.

His loving children **Pepe** and **Tillit**, **Nap** and **Nimfa**, **Josie** and **Nanding**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at Chapel Garden Suite at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City will be on Monday, November 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. after Mass at the Park.

ELMO DE GRACIA BAUTISTA

of Masinloc, Zambales & Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 28, 2007.

His wife **Corazon**; children **Marcelino II**, **Lesly** and **Elmo Raymond II**; daughter-in-law **Eileen**; grandson **Arby**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request you to join them in prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the **Arlington East, The Garden Chapels**, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue cor. Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Date of interment to be announced later.

In Loving Memory on Her
1st Death Anniversary

Carmelita S. Santos

(February 3, 1933 – October 30, 2006)

Holy Masses wil be offered at:

1. **Miraculous Medal Parish**, Wilson St., ... 7:15 AM/7:15 PM
   Greenhills, San Juan
2. **Mt. Carmel Parish**, New Manila .... 6:00 AM/6:00 PM
3. **Perpetual Help Shrine**, Baclaran .... 6:45 AM
4. **St. Joseph Convent**, New Manila .... 6:00 AM
5. **Immaculate Concepcion Church**, Marikina .... 7:15 AM
6. **Christ the King Seminary**, QC .... 6:30 AM
7. **Our Lady of Loreto**, Sampaloc, Manila .... 6:00 AM
8. **St. John Baptist Parish**, San Juan .... 7:15 AM
9. **La Naval**, Sto. Domingo, QC .... 8:00 AM
10. **Sanctuario del Sto. Cristo**, San Juan .... 7:00 AM
11. **Sacred Heart Parish**, Sta. Mesa, Manila .... 6:00 AM
12. **Black Nazarene**, Quiapo, Manila .... 6:00 AM

Her family request relatives, friends and all those lives she touched to remember her in their prayers.

"Mom, you are gone but not forgotten."

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LOURDES GENILO AMICIS

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 28, 2007 at the age of 79.

Her children **Cecilia, Anita, Ma. Cristina**; her grandchildren **Hazel Anne, Roy Amante** and **Carol Angela**; her brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment is on November 5, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
On the 15th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIO

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory today,
October 30, 2007 at:

Mary the Queen Church
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:00 P.M.
Santuario de San Jose
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:15 A.M.
Christ the King Church
Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C. .... 6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C. .... 7:00 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City .... 6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Church
Pasay Road, Makati City .... 7:30 A.M.
St. Francis de Assisi Parish
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City .... 6:00 P.M.

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development
NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound, Cagayan de Oro City
Telephone No.: 726362; Fax No.: 721794
Website: www.doh.gov.ph/nmmc

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of Fourteen Million Pesos (Php 14,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the procurement of Various Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Northern Mindanao Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Various Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the goods is required by January to June 2008. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Northern Mindanao Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be through Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **November 6, 2007, 2:00 PM at NMMC Auditorium.**

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 AM of November 19, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash/Cashier's Check (One percent of the ABC) or Bank Guarantee (One and one-half percent of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **November 19, 2007, 9:00 AM at NMMC Auditorium.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
TROY JOHN T. TABANAS, MD, FPAFP, DPSCOT
Capitol Compound
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. 08822-726362
Fax number: 08822-721704

(Sgd.) TROY JOHN T. TABANAS, MD, FPAFP, DPSCOT
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 30, 2007)

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GYM EQUIPMENTS/EXERCISERS: LIFESTRIDE Treadmills 9500/TR4500; STAR TRAC Recumbent Bikes, STAR TRAC Lifecycle Bikes 9500; LIFESTEP 9500; FLEX Dumbel Rack.
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On View: Monday 5th November 2007 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)

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Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	3	UNITS	DIGITAL VOLTAGE INDICATOR, 1-40KV, CATALOG #C403-2794 HOT LINE TOOLS CHANCE **AGENCY PRICE: P112,500.00 per unit**
2	3	UNITS	LOAD LOOKER AMMETER, UP TO 500 KV UP TO 5000 AMPS CATALOG #MEAMP32RN, HOT LINE TOOLS CHANCE **AGENCY PRICE: P83,100.00 per unit**
3	6	PCS	CONDUCTOR COVER WITH GRIP-ALL ADAPTER, 5FT . 25 KV PHASE TO PHASE. ITEM NO. 55 CATALOG NO. C406-0181GA **AGENCY PRICE: P7,500.00 per unit**

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of November 5, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted hereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on November 13, 2007.

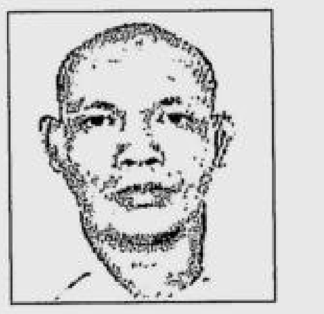
Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2.00 p.m. of November 13, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI–October 30 & 31, 2007)

Notice to the Public



Jonathan B. Odiver, whose photo appears above is no longer connected with Guaranteed Best Consulting and General Services Co. and not assigned at Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank as Field Collector. Any transaction undertaken by him shall not be honored by Guarantee Best and Chinatrust.

(PDI–Oct. 30, 2007)

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Local producers to hike steel prices

DOMESTIC STEEL MANUFACTURERS ARE ADJUSTING THEIR PRICES upward due to high cost of imported raw materials following the sudden surge in international prices despite the appreciation of the Peso. Moreover, producers of galvanized and prepainted roofing materials have to raise prices because of the increase in the tariff rates for Cold Rolled Coils (CRC) and Hot Rolled Coils (HRC) from 3 percent to 7 percent effective last Oct. 20 under EO 375. The increase in tariff is effectively equivalent to 4.48 percent considering the multiplier effect on the VAT. It will be recalled that this Executive Order was issued by the government primarily as a protection to Global Steel Philippines (SPV-AMC) Inc., the Indian operator of the Iligan facilities of then National Steel Corporation. According to Art M. Florendo, president of Union Galvasteel Corp., a major galvanizer, the data from the domestic steel industry shows that Hot Rolled Coils (HRC) the materials use to produce cold rolled coils, pipes, tubes and structural members are priced currently from US$600 to US$650 per MT C&F against US$450 per ton at the beginning of 2006. These prices are 25 percent more than the prices in the third quarter of 2006. The major suppliers of these materials are mills located in China, Taiwan, Korea, India, Australia and Thailand.

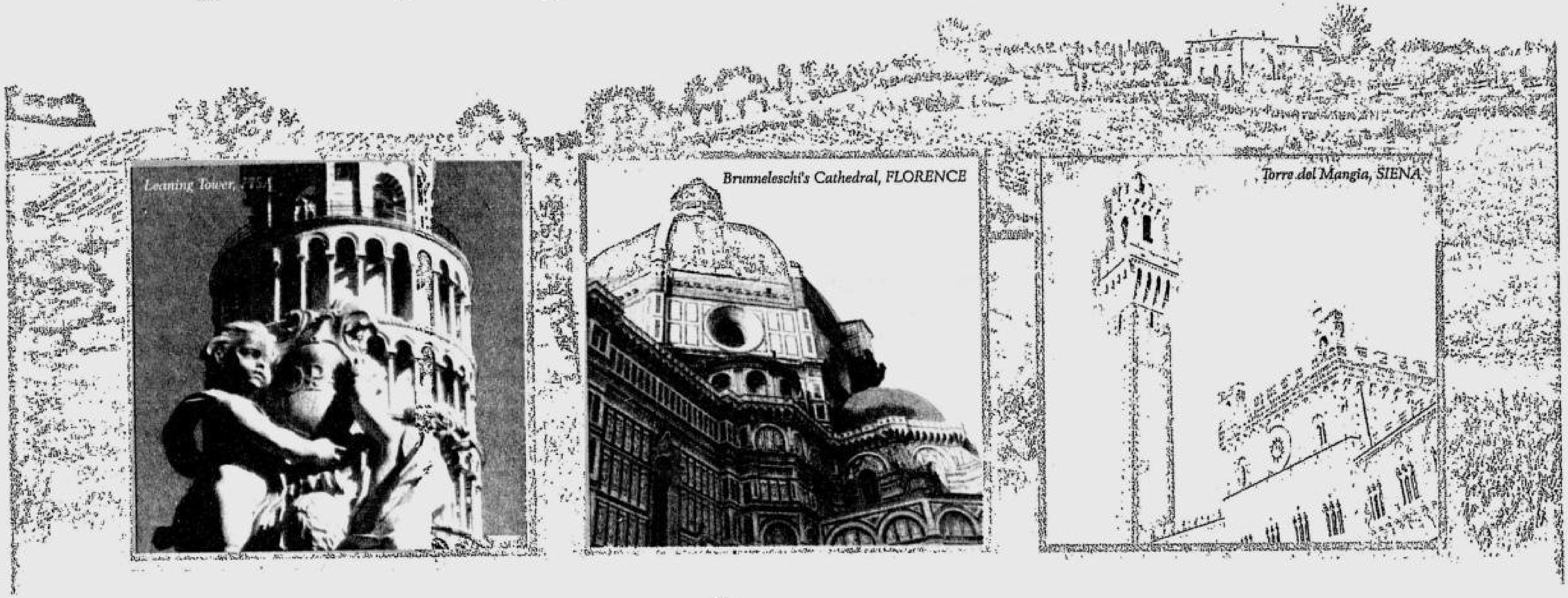
Hoyu's Oriental Hair Exhibit

HOYU CO., LTD., JAPAN'S NO. 1 HAIR COLOR MAKER ORGANIZED A free hair-coloring and special exhibit on Oriental hair to increase awareness on Asian hair properties and care. The event which was held in various Robinsons, SM Malls and Festival Mall was the company's way of thanking the Filipino customers for more than 50 years of continued patronage. Hoyu develops and manufactures hair color, hair care and other hair cosmetic products for consumers and professional markets. Hoyu not only enjoys the largest market share in Japan, but is also one of the leading providers of hair colorants in more than 70 countries around the world. Inspired by the mystique of Oriental Beauty, Hoyu recently created Bigen Silk Touch to enhance the natural beauty of Asian hair. Bigen Silk Touch is the result of continuous research aimed at creating a product made of natural ingredients that can produce the desired aesthetic effect. After making waves in Singapore and Thailand, Bigen Silk Touch debuts in the Philippines as Hoyu's premier hair color for more fashionable Filipinas.

Tutuban brings happy shopping experience

TUTUBAN MALL, THE PIONEERING ONE-STOP SHOPPING AND RECREational mall in Divisoria brings the fun back in Pinoy shopping. Tutuban recently launched its Happy Hour promo. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily, customers will get an appetizer for free with every order of a pitcher of draft beer. Not only will diners enjoy great beer, they will also enjoy a wide variety of good food at Tutuban food court located at the third floor of Centermall II. The promo will run until Dec. 2007. This is perfect for casual dining and is the best respite from work and stress. Mark this opportunity to celebrate with family or hang out with friends. To make the most out of your "Pinoy shopping experience" in Tutuban, complement fine dining with a great shopping binge. Tutuban Mall presents its Last Quarter Pre-Christmas Sale wherein shoppers get to enjoy up to 50 percent discount on selected items available at Tutuban Centermall. The Pre-Christmas sale will be held on Nov. 26 to Dec. 2. To complete your great shopping experience Tutuban Mall will also have its midnight mall wide sale on Nov. 30.

Inspired by Italy's Most Beautiful 'Cities of Art'


Leaning Tower, PISA
Brunneleschi's Cathedral, FLORENCE
Torre del Mangia, SIENA

MCKINLEY HILL
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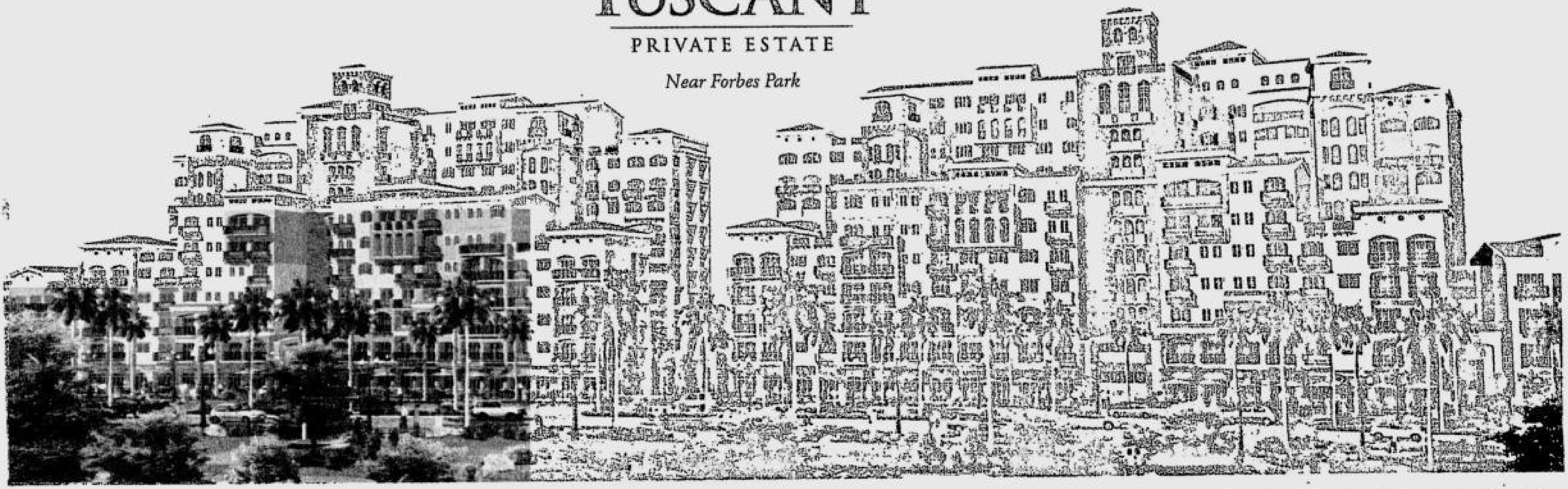
PRIVATE ESTATE
Near Forbes Park



Tuscany. A land of exuberant romance. Of lush beauty. And today, the inspiration of McKinley Hill's newest community. The Tuscany Private Estate.

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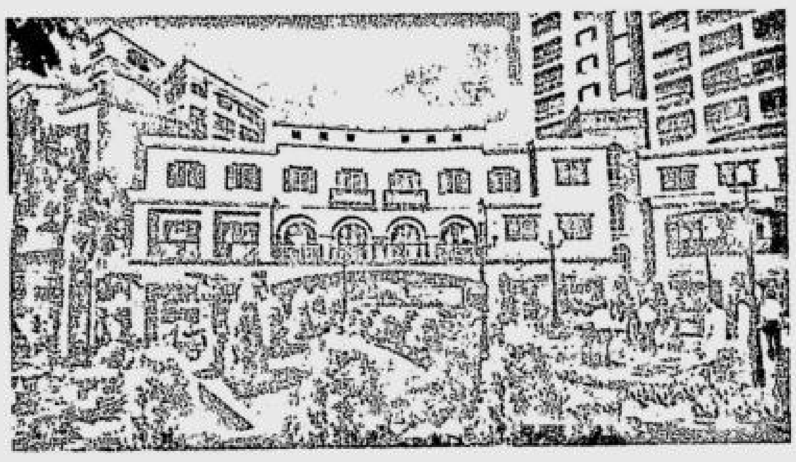
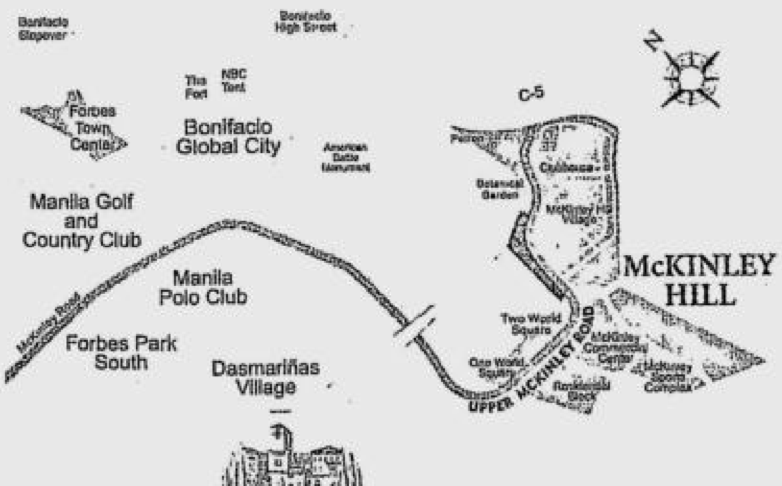
Celebrate *la vita Toscana*. Where every sight and sound is an absolute pleasure. The Tuscany Private Estate at McKinley Hill.

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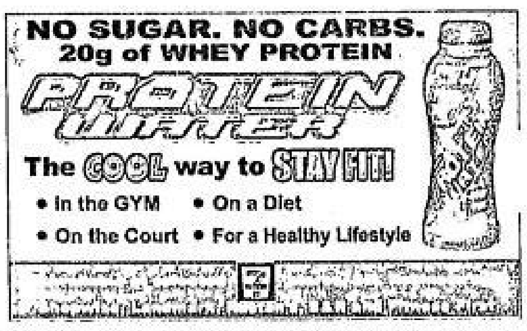
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Asia's Queen of Songs bats for strong bones

And why not? Pilita Corrales has, after all, enthralled audiences worldwide with her legendary back-bending moves for more than three decades now

By Rowena C. Burgos

ASIA'S QUEEN OF SONGS Pilita Corrales joins other high-profile women in a global fight against osteoporosis.

A member of the International Bone Health Ambassadors for five years now, Corrales recently represented the Philippines at the "Breaking the Silence of Osteoporosis" forum held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai. Organized by Fonterra, the event also marked the global launch of World Osteoporosis Day and the Global Bone Health Ambassador Network.

Together with celebrity ambassadors from Indonesia, New Zealand, Malaysia and the Middle East, Corrales pledged her commitment to stamp out the disease.

"The impact of osteoporosis is painful and devastating. Please join me in taking simple steps to help prevent this disease so we can enjoy life, independence and physical freedom as long as possible," she said. "One of the easiest things we can do is to make sure we have a diet rich in essential bone nutrients like calcium, Vitamin D, magnesium, zinc and protein."

A performer for more than three decades now, Corrales has enthralled audiences worldwide with her legendary back-bending moves. To help keep her bones strong, she says she drinks two glasses of milk every day and does weight-bearing exercises such as walking thrice a week.

Other ambassadors

Allison Roe, 51, of New Zealand, has been a bone health ambassador for two years now. A champion marathon runner, Roe is also the founder and organizer of the Run to Heal series. In 2002, she was given the Abebe Bikila Award at the United Nations for her outstanding contribution to the sport of running.

Zaiton Othman, 47, is a Southeast Asian Games champion and Malaysia's National Sports Council director. With her passion for sports, she continues to participate and win medals at the World Veteran Games.

Howayda Abou-Heif, 34, is the host and producer of "Green Apple," a health and wellness program broadcast across the Middle East.

Traditional Javanese dancer Retno Maruti, 60, is a bone health ambassador for three years now. Named Public Figure of the Year in 2000 for her contributions to art and culture, Retno still teaches dance at the Jakarta Arts Institute.

Shocking findings

During the forum, Daniel Navid, chief executive officer of the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), presented State of the Nation Bone Health Reports, the result of a year-long joint research effort by Fonterra and the IOF to provide a quantified view of the social and economic impact of osteoporosis. These studies were done in Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

A disease in which the density and quality of bone are reduced, leading to increased risk of fracture, osteoporosis is a global health problem that currently affects approximately one in three women and one in five men over the age of 50.

Often referred to as the "silent epidemic," osteoporosis results in gradual bone loss and occurs without symptoms until the disease is advanced.

The report also states that in women over 45 years of age, osteoporosis accounts for more days spent in the hospital than many other diseases, including diabetes, myocardial infraction and breast cancer.

The worldwide cost of osteoporosis for all ages is projected to increase to $131.5 billion by 2050.

By 2050, the worldwide incidence of hip fracture in men is projected to increase by 310 percent and 240 percent in women.

"Alarmingly, the report on the Philippines showed the overall prevalence of fractures among men and women over 50 years of age was about 10 percent," Navid said. "At present, osteoporosis is not considered a major health priority, so we are calling on the Filipino government and health professionals to make bone health a priority and help educate the public on the simple pre-

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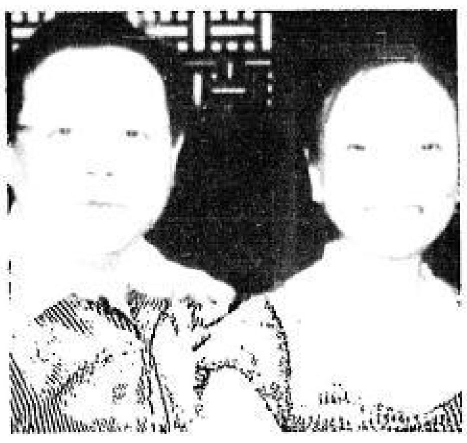
BAMBI Harper and Ambassador Rubens Fedele

MINNIE Jentes and Donnie Ramirez

BARBARA Perez and husband Robert Arevalo


STEEL magnate William Tan and stylish wife Katherine Tan

MEGA insurance man Robert Lim and eye-catching wife Helen L.

The party of the Sison

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

WHEN YOU RECEIVE AN INVITATION from the multitalented, multifaceted **George Sison**, you are out of your mind if you do not accept, *palanggas*.

It was held in the truly magnificent entertainment place of mega architect **Gerry Contreras**. We were taken to a two-story guest house atop a 2,500-sqm mansion, *palanggas*, and served cocktails.

Fashionably on time were Italian Ambassador **Rubens Fedele** and his wife **Cosetta**; champion marksman and now Toyota (Pasong Tamo Extension) hotshot **Arthur Macapagal** and southern belle **Mariter Jalandoni**; political strategist **Ramon Orosa**; and our international beauties **Gemma Cruz-Araneta** and **Aurora Pijuan**, dahlings.

Architect **Johnny Hubilla** and engineer **Nonette**, happily mingled with attractive **Cynthia Pastor** and her husband Dr. **Ramon Pastor**, surgeon of the late **Marilyn Monroe**, no less, dahlings; and Dr. **Efren Vasquez** of the excellent Café Juanita.

When asked if he was related to **Marivic**, he exclaimed, "I belong to the poor Vasquezes."

Glenda Barreto of Via Mare prepared a superb dinner that was set on the large square center table in Gerry C.'s elevated royal dining room, *palanggas*.

The big surprise of the evening was when George introduced his electrician, **Edwin Santander**, to us. Edwin S. could do Filipino poetry in the tradition of *Balagtasan*, with Cory as the object of his affection. He brought the house down.

Aprés all the laughter, applause, entertainment and endless flow of chilled Möet & Chandon, it was time to leave and go to my next happening, but not before *moi* had thanked our Royal for a Day, George S., for treating us to such an "enchanted" evening, *palanggas*.

More options

The second *moi* breezed into the *tres* modern, redesigned mega Robinsons Supermarket, I noticed loads of new large-format signs, great for those who wear eyeglasses and even for those with 20/20 vision, *palanggas*.

Health buffs like *moi*, were so glad to discover "Whole Health," an entire section with tons of healthy products like low-salt, low- or no cholesterol, fiber-rich, and low- or no-fat items.

The "Island Favorites" section is worth checking out with its different products from all over the country.

Robinsons' group hot-hot luminaries took center stage, welcoming us, dahlings. They included the grand matriarch **Elizabeth Gokongwei**, senior vice president and group general manager; witty **Robina Gokongwei-Pe**, general manager; **Jody Gadia**, assistant vice president for merchandising; **Bobby Mabanta**, first vice president for operations; **Ronnie Ong**, chair and chief executive officer of Unilever Philippines; **Sanjiv Mehta**, customer development vice president; **Pong Ejercito**, head of modern trade; and deputy vice president **Pete Ramos**.

Girl-about-town **Sam Oh** hosted the fun informal morning happening.

Then it was time to dig into the endless yummies—a sumptuous buffet brunch from The French Baker and Mickey's Deli, as well as surprise treats from Robinsons Supermarket affiliates.

When brunch was over, it was time to get a grocery cart and shop, dahlings. We spotted a few celebrities like **John Prats** and **Nancy Castiglione**.

Before *moi* dashed off for my late afternoon exercise, I heard Jody G. say the message they wanted to convey was wellness and healthy living. "We're bringing this to our consumers, to empower them with more lifestyle options."

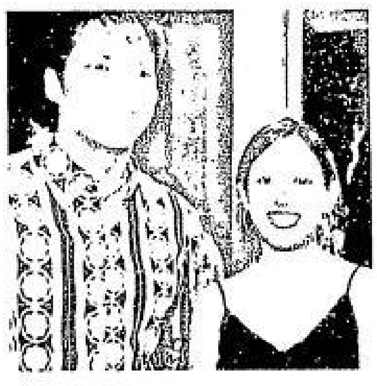
Yeah, *palanggas*, it surely was a great way to start my day.

FASHIONABLE Cynthia Pastor, vivacious Tereret Tambunting Liboro, Prince for a Day George Sison, cool Tingting Cojuangco, Manoling Poblador and wife, brilliant real-estate broker Sandie P.

BULGARI'S main man Mario Katigbak; *la simpatica* Cosetta Fedele, wife of the Italian ambassador; DJ Lopez; Aurora Pijuan; and host Gerry Contreras

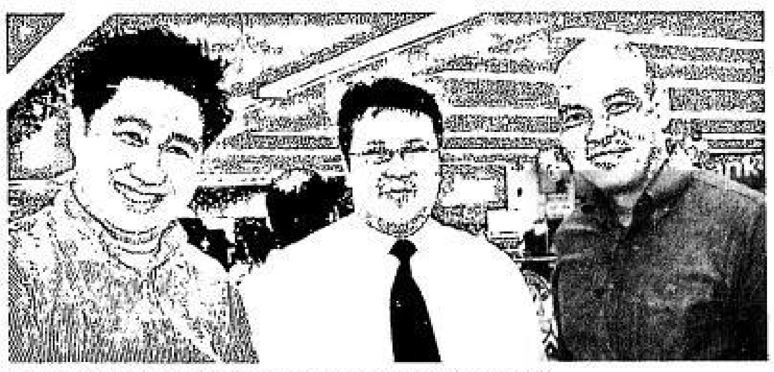
UNILEVER'S Sanjiv Mehta, Robinson's well-loved grand matriarch Elizabeth Gokongwei and Johnlu Koa of French Baker

ARTHUR "Art" Macapagal and wife Mariter Jalandoni

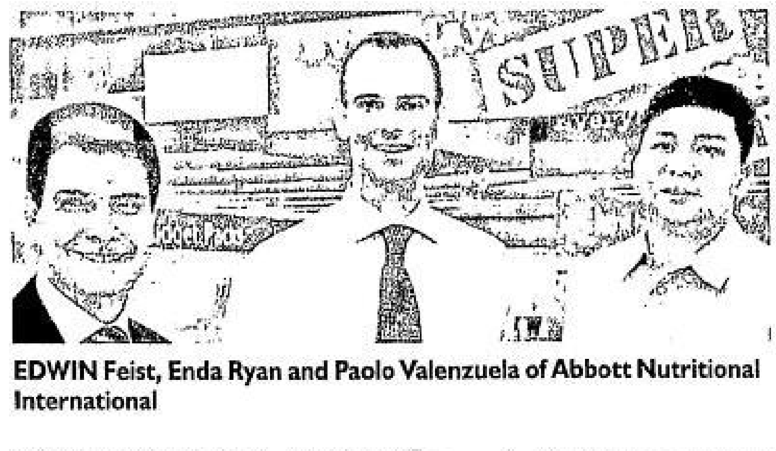

GOOD-LOOKING singer Bo Cerrudo and cybersmart young lawyer Abegail Binay

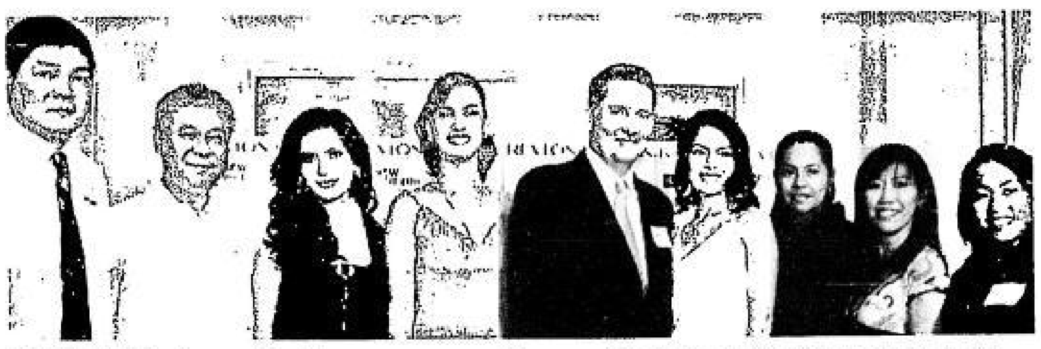
FORMER Miss International Gemma Cruz Araneta

SEDUCTIVE working heiress Marivic Madrigal Vasquez


PEL TECSON, Victor Filart and Levi Labra of P&G

METROBANK'S Sid Bada, Tony Maughan and Nic Aguirre


EDWIN Feist, Enda Ryan and Paolo Valenzuela of Abbott Nutritional International


HOTSHOT Revlon and Le Becarre personas: Raymund Uy, VP and GM of Le Becarre; Philip Uy, Cathy Moya, Lou Bunyi-Pareja, Art Miller, Angelica Sandel, Ana Saliendres, Christine Teo, and Le Becarre's Maureen Rillon

REVLON consultant Jinggay Gallardo

REVLON'S marketing manager Ana Saliendres, model Valerie de los Santos, Susiean Go, Mia Borromeo, Patty Eustaquio, Tesa Celdran and Pauline Lao

ART MILLER, marketing director, Global Travel Retail, Revlon

Limited edition

The Revlon Limited Edition Collection made its dramatic entrance via two fab events this year. It was first unveiled during Preview magazine's 2007 Best Dressed Ball at Embassy at The Fort. A press launch followed at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, *palanggas*.

This must-have collection has three main concepts: first, the pleasure of indulgence—pampering your senses with fragrance and texture; second, making your own ceremony—translating this onto eyes, lips, and face; and third, a renewed focus on the skin.

But it doesn't end there. Already there are three more exciting must-have products for gals to drool over, dahlings.

Hey, gals be flirty and be sexy, with this new Revlon items at Watson's, Robinsons, Landmark, Cinderella, Ever, Gaisano, PCX, Sta. Lucia, Mercury Drug Glorietta, Unimart, and other leading department stores, *palanggas*.

ESCADA'S Marilou Koa with her cutie pie baby and Sam Oh

BOBBY Mabanta and Jeannie Posas, owner of Dizon Farms

HEALTH buffs Cory Quirino and Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales

Did you know?

THE ANLENE Bone Health Check program was launched recently in Dubai.

Anlene
FONTERRA MEDIA CONFERENCE
BREAKING THE SILENCE ON BONE HEALTH

CAROLINE Cunningham, global marketing manager, Fonterra Brands; Pilita Corrales; Howayda Abou-Heif, bone health ambassador, Middle East; Allison Roe, bone health ambassador, New Zealand; Daniel Navid, CEO, International Osteoporosis Foundation; Dr. Maryam Matar, undersecretary for public health and primary health care, UAE Ministry of Health; Pradeep Pant, regional marketing director, Fonterra brands; Retno Maruti, bone health ambassador, Indonesia; and Zaiton Othman, bone health ambassador, Malaysia

Asia's Queen of Songs bats for strong bones

From page C1

ventive measures that people can take to maintain bone health."

Reports are also underway in Malaysia, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.

Partnership

On the other hand, Pradeep Pant, regional managing director, Asia and Middle East, Fonterra Brands, announced a new three-year partnership between the IOF and Fonterra, which follows the success of a close alliance over the past year.

"Together, we have made significant progress in addressing apathy and ignorance on this important health issue by driving bone health education and awareness across the globe," Pant said.

Fonterra, a multinational dairy company whose consumer brands include Anlene, Anmum, Anchor, Chesdale, Fernleaf and Mainland, has been helping people prevent osteoporosis since 1991. Along with the IOF and GE Healthcare, Fonterra has devoted resources—amounting to over $150 million over the next three years—toward bone health research, education, awareness, campaigns and disease-prevention efforts.

Last year, Fonterra launched the global Anlene Bone Health Check program and pledged to scan three million people in three years. To date, the company has scanned over 1.2 million people in 12 months.

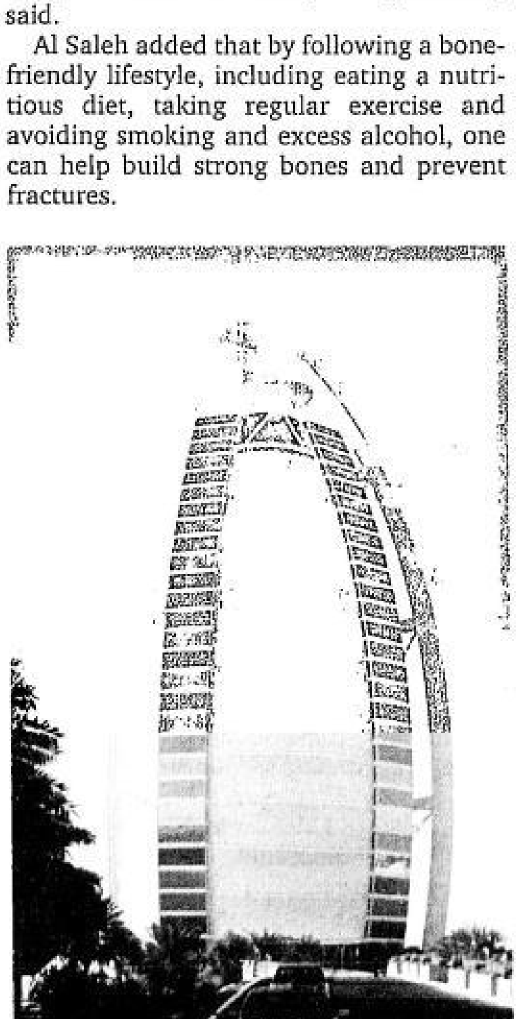
Bone-friendly lifestyle

If you smoke, drink more than two units of alcohol a day, are underweight, don't exercise or eat well, you could be setting yourself up for osteoporosis later in life, according to a report presented by the IOF and the Emirates Osteoporosis Society (EOS) in another conference, "Beat the Break: Know and Reduce Your Osteoporosis Risk Factors."

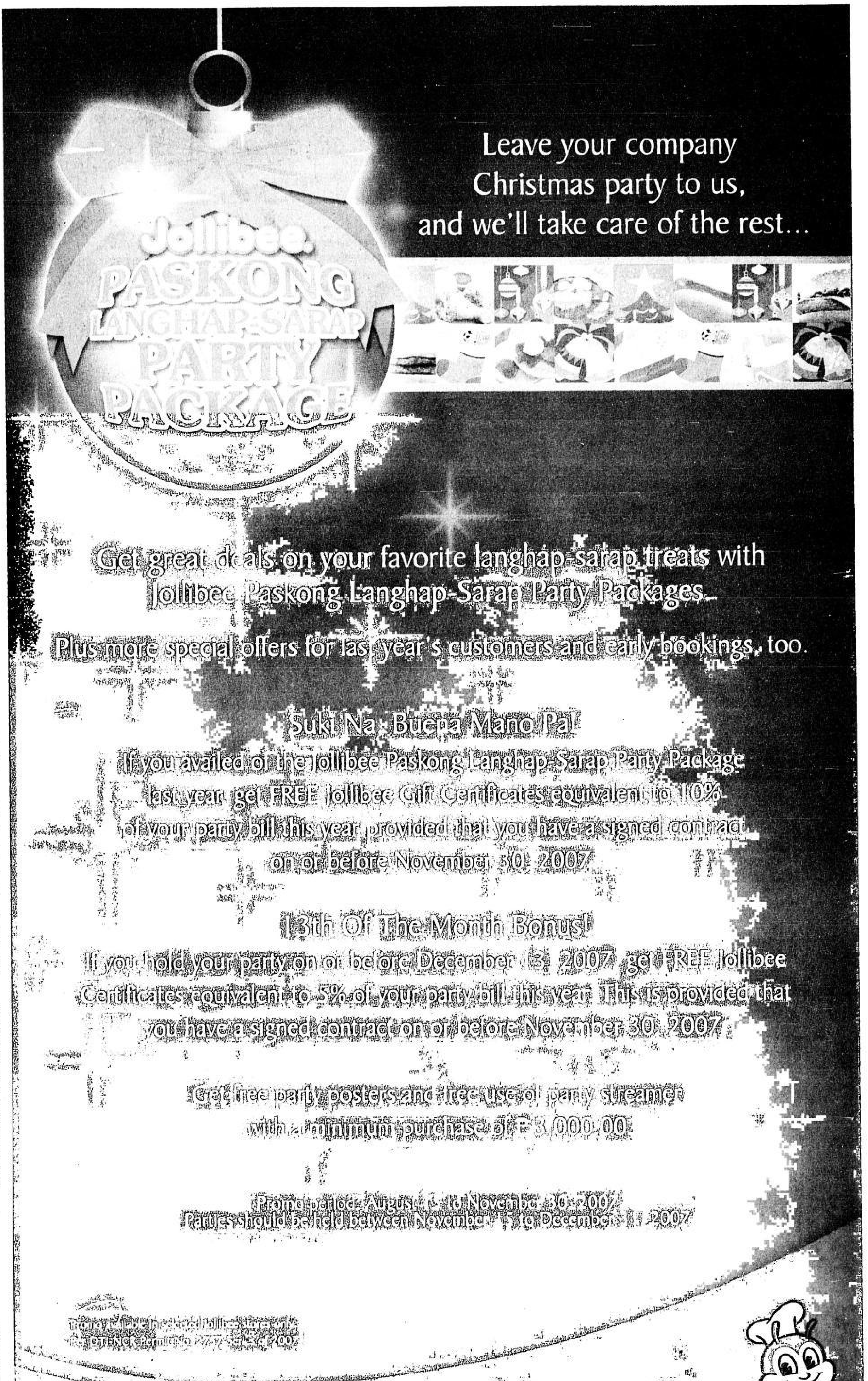
"Studies conducted in the Middle East have shown that the prevalence of low bone mass is as high in this region as in western countries. But it doesn't have to be this way. If people recognize osteoporosis risk factors when they are young and take appropriate action, it can have enormous positive impact on their bone health in later years," professor Pierre Delmas, IOF president, said.

"This campaign encourages teenagers and young adults to invest in their bones by pursuing a healthy lifestyle and to educate the middle aged and elderly of the common risk factors of osteoporosis and the importance of undergoing screening for the disease," Dr. Jamal Al Saleh, EOS president, said.

Al Saleh added that by following a bone-friendly lifestyle, including eating a nutritious diet, taking regular exercise and avoiding smoking and excess alcohol, one can help build strong bones and prevent fractures.



BURJ Al Arab, Dubai's 7-star hotel



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Get free party posters and free use of party streamer with a minimum purchase of ₱3,000.00.

Promo period: August [illegible] to November 30, 2007
Parties should be held between November 15 to December [illegible] 2007

Promo available in selected Jollibee stores only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2007

Overcoming self-defeating thoughts

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

Exercise perseverance requires preparation and discipline. Believe in yourself

DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PUSH yourself during the first 10 minutes of an exercise routine or feel like quitting the final part of a 20-minute jogging program because you think it is hard?

You need to find ways to replace self-defeating thoughts with more realistic and positive ones. None of the best exercise strategies can give you the results you want unless you are in the right frame of mind.

Here are the most common self-defeating thoughts that might prevent you from starting, enduring or finishing any physical activity. These thoughts delay results and limit your abilities to take steps toward success.

Focusing on hardest part of exercise

"This exercise is too hard."

Usually the first or last 10 minutes of exercise are the hardest. Exertion accompanied by any unpleasant thought or feeling might lead to early termination of exercise.

You need to invest time and energy when training for something to be more confident. Exercise perseverance requires preparation and discipline. Believe in yourself and focus on what you have already accomplished.

While exercising, think of your goals. Think about where you want to be, how you are going to get there and why you want it.

Reflect on the benefits of what you are doing and how you will learn from your experience, like observing your heart rate and body's response to exertion.

When I joined my first full marathon, the last three kilometers were the hardest part ever. I just thought of this: "If I have already done 39 kilometers, the three kilometers should be easier. I know I can do this since I prepared hard."

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Thinking black or white

"Since I failed to exercise today as planned, I might as well eat and not exercise at all for the whole week."

This thinking has no moderation and balance. If something falls short of your expectations, you see it as total failure.

Studies show that low to moderate exercise may suppress appetite.

I have also observed that consistent exercisers have greater control over their appetite because of what they have accomplished from an exercise.

Some tend to eat more when they lack exercise. Situations like this might arise from the physiological or psychological effects of inactivity.

Kelly Brownell, an internationally-known weight control expert, advised talking back to yourself with the knowledge it was illogical to feel terrible about one slip.

Success is measured by the ability to get up and start again. You can think this instead: "If I can't work out today, the more I should control my food intake. I will fix my schedule and try to work out tomorrow even for just 30 minutes."

Comparing self to others

"I am fat. It would be impossible for me to be like them. Exercise is just a waste of time and energy."

Unrealistic expectations might arise from labeling oneself "fat," "failure," etc. and always comparing one's self to others.

You should take steps that will bring you closer to your goals, rather than aspire for what others have that you do not have right now. A person's worth comes from his/her unique abilities and the improvements he/she achieves.

Monitor your improvements by having baseline data of your weight, fat percentage, girth measurements, resting heart rate, blood pressure and record of your exercise program.

Periodically re-evaluate your progress either weekly or monthly focusing on improvements rather than what you do not have.

A regular positive self-talk will help you build a long-term motivation. Say "I am unique and I don't have to compare myself to others. I have to discover my potential and focus on my improvements instead of making myself feel inferior because of what I see around."

Thinking about what others will say

"They might say I look too awkward to join this class."

Some people hesitate to join a group fitness class because they are embarrassed about their weight and skill level. Stuck to their exercise routines, they quit because of boredom.

In reality, we can try different exercise options suited to our skill levels for variety.

If you are worried about what other people in the group exercise room might think, remember that they have their own issues to deal with.

The truth is those who join classes only think of themselves, how they look in the mirror and how to follow the exercise moves.

I once asked a participant in my weight training class about her thoughts during the exercise. She said, "I just look at myself in the mirror and think about how good I feel, how much I've improved and lost weight since I joined this class."

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

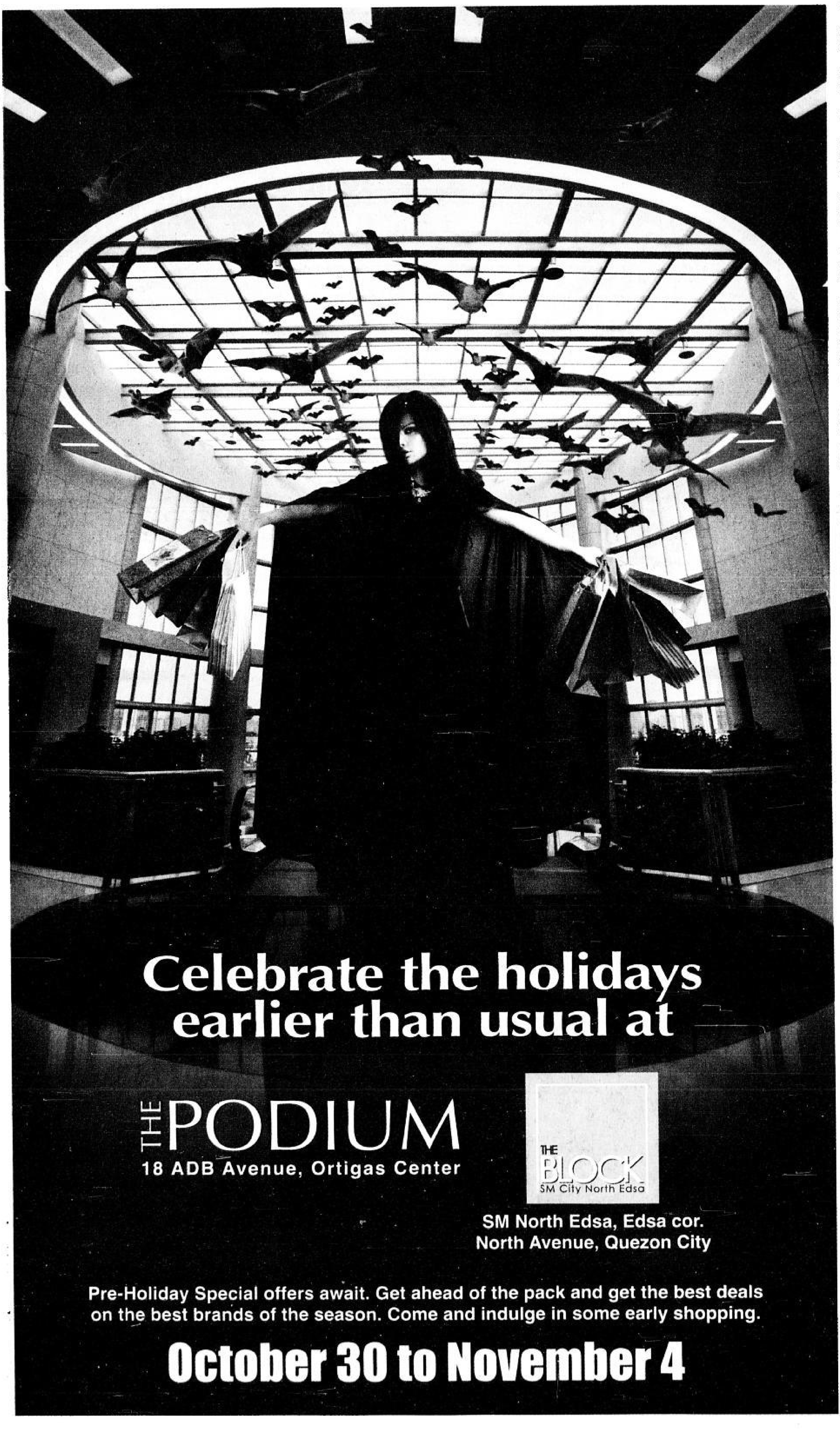
Celebration of life

"LIVE PINK AND CELEBRATE LIFE!" A breast cancer awareness event of Woman Today Asia and the Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Foundation, will be held Nov. 7, 12 noon-7 p.m., at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.

Tessie Pamintuan, recipient of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization award for entrepreneurship and cancer survivor, will receive the 2007 Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Foundation Award.

Free mammogram certificates, flu vaccines from GSK and psychological counseling will be given during the event.

Breast cancer is the No. 1 killer disease among Filipino women.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LIFESTYLE

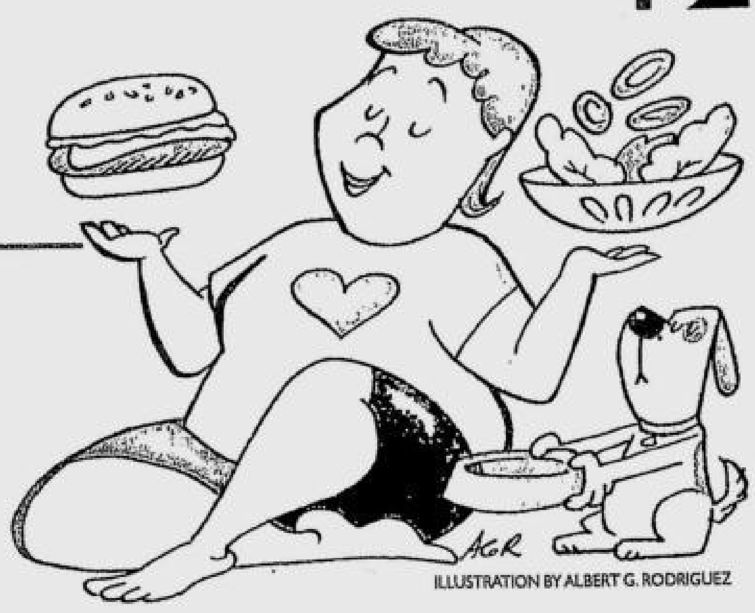

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Recognize your need

THE MOST OFTEN ASKED question these days is "how can I look better and feel better?"

Begin today

Asking yourself that question is a good start. The right beginning is when you acknowledge this need. To start your quest properly, you have to proceed with conviction.

Body right

A woman, 70 pounds overweight and looking helpless, asked me for advice. I gave her the easiest suggestion.

Seeing she was about to devour a hamburger, I gently removed the top of the bun. Reducing your carbohydrate intake is the easiest, most painless diet of all.

Cutting carbo intake by half and consuming high-fiber foods can trim you down gradually and easily. This, plus regular exercise, will guarantee a trimmer waistline in weeks.

- See your nutritionist for a low-calorie meal plan.
- Fasting to lose weight is also a good cleansing habit. Eat no solids from sunrise to sunset. Simply take liquids like water, coconut water, vegetable juices. Break your fast with a raw vegetable salad using olive oil/virgin coco oil and lemon.
- Have a ready snack handy like fresh fruits and nuts.

Heart full of soul

Here is an exercise from Dr. Gary Zukav's "The Heart of the Soul." Opening your heart releases bitterness and anger. The result is healing.

Open your heart's door

Think of a time in your life when you felt love from someone—your mother, child, grandchild, significant other. Remember that moment. Recall the feelings.

If you feel any chest pain, this means your heart is closed. Go ahead, experience the pain. Breathe deeply, then keep the loving memory alive until the pain goes away.

When the energy of regret leaves you, it also moves out of your chest. Then, all that remains is a loving, healing memory.

Remember, emotional pain can be physically damaging. If you refuse to look inside emotionally, your physical heart can also be damaged from within. This is because all emotions are physical.

Aromatherapy & medicine

An exasperated woman in her 30's approached Shirley Ruiz of Cyberwalker Enterprises at her booth in the recent Beauty & Fitness Fair at the

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Diamond Peel w/ Vitamin C Ionotherapy P700
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"Maligo sa malakas na buhos ng ulan para tumangkad."
That's S pinoy!
Isdang binuhusan ng mainit at masarap na sabaw. Bangus Belly Sinigang.
That's Soupinoy!
Goldilocks
P62

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Doug Kramer
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Discount is not applicable on dermatological and surgical procedures, medicines and packaged treatments.
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Skin Clinic and Spa
Greenbelt 1
Greenbelt 1, Paseo de Roxas Legaspi Village, Makati City
(in front of AIM/Corinthian Plaza)
Tel. No.: 751-9520
TriNoma
Level 1, TriNoma EDSA cor. North Avenue, Quezon City
(beside Medical City, near escalator)
Tel. No.: 916-6170
Pops Fernandez
Pinky Amador
IPL Depilation (Permanent Hair Removal)
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Thermasculpt (Non-Surgical Body Sculpting)
Thermalift (Non-Surgical Face Lift)
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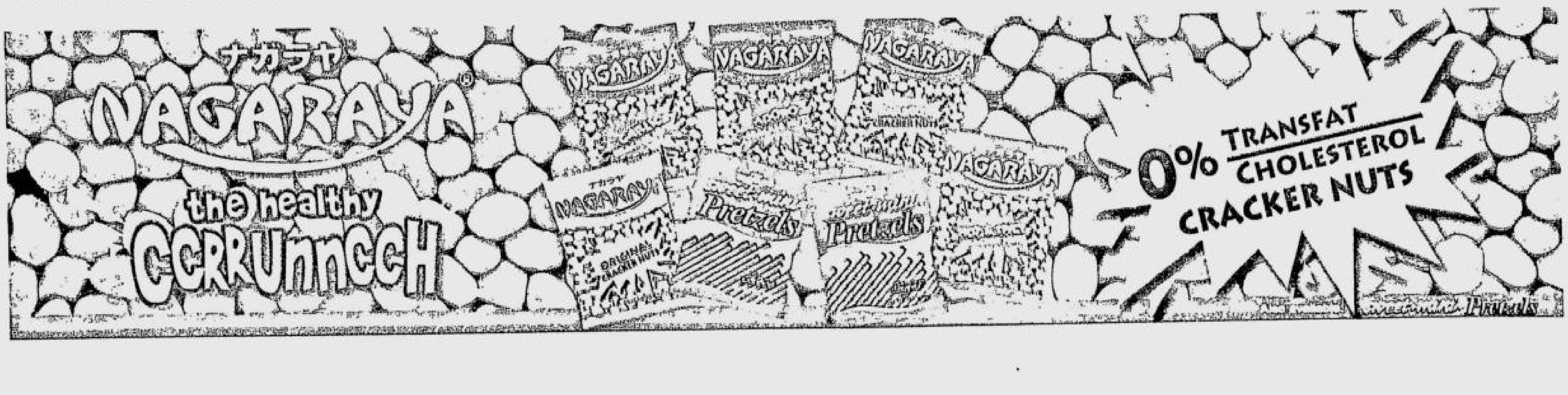
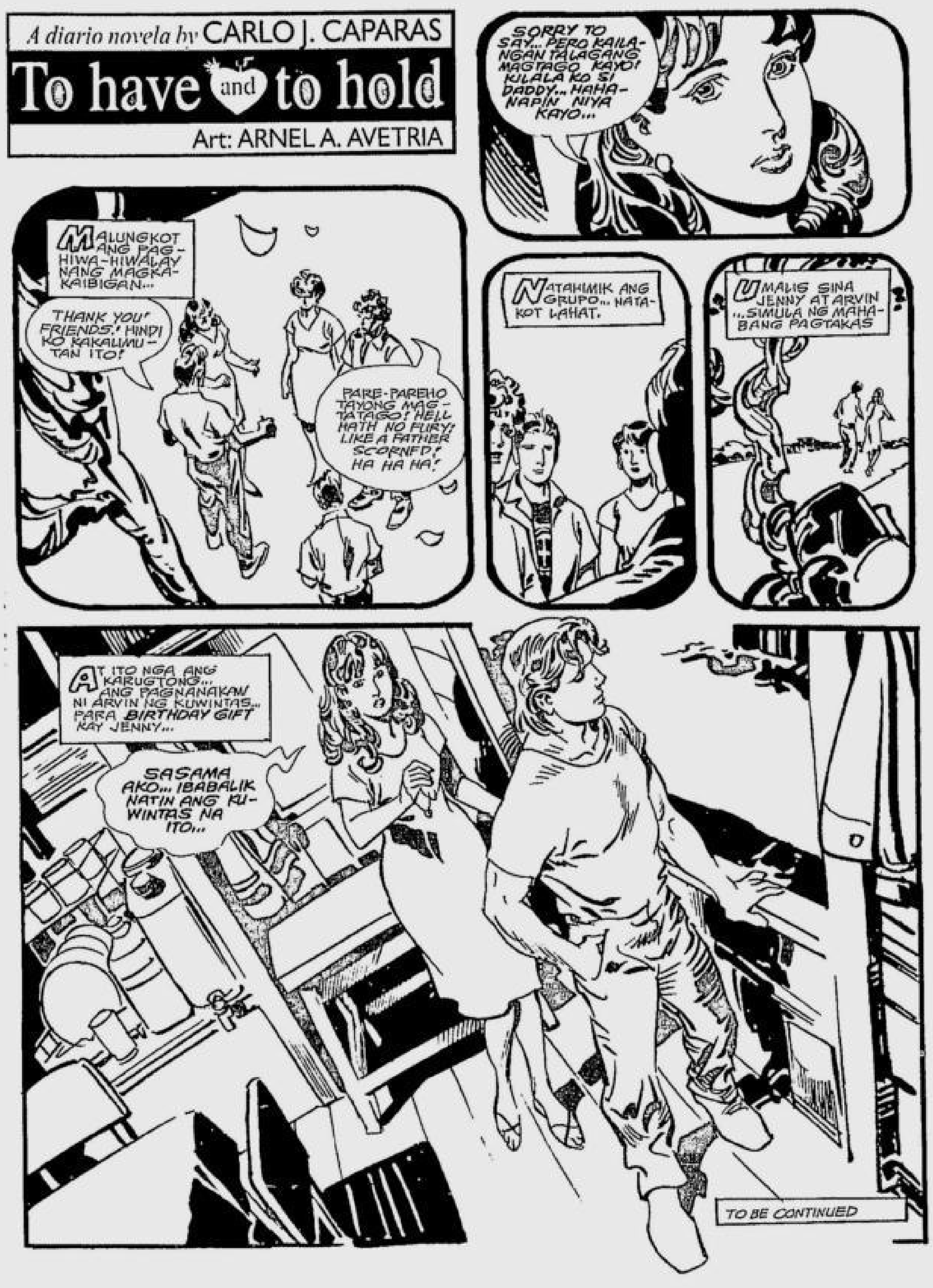
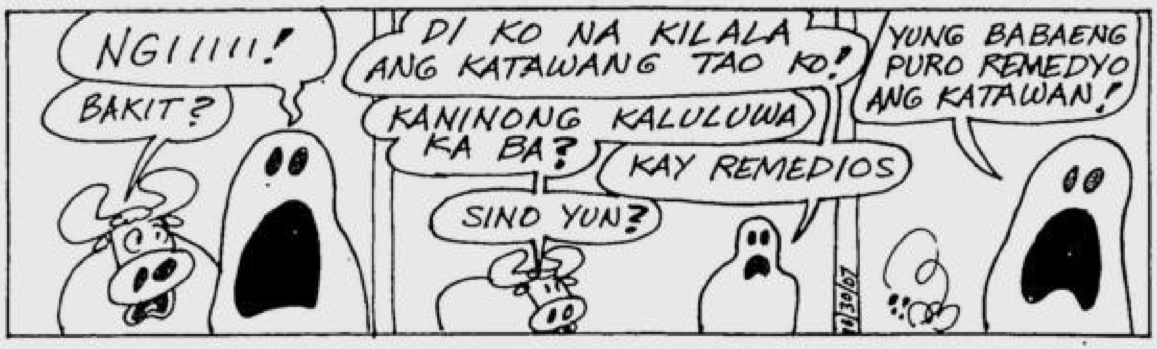
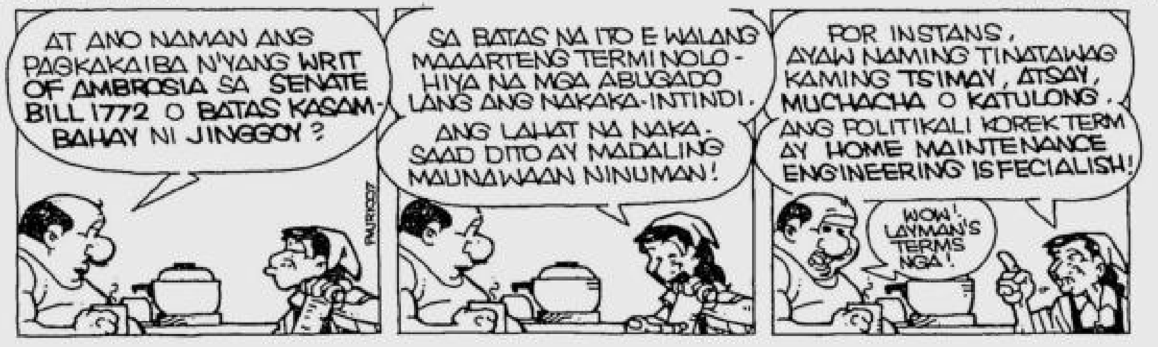

ナガラヤ
NAGARAYA
the healthy
CCRRUnncCH
0% TRANSFAT CHOLESTEROL
CRACKER NUTS
Pretzels


A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
SORRY TO SAY... PERO KAILANGAN TALAGANG MAGTAGO KAYO! KILALA KO SI DADDY... HAHANAPIN NIYA KAYO...
MALUNGKOT ANG PAGHIWA-HIWALAY NANG MAGKAKAIBIGAN...
THANK YOU! FRIENDS! HINDI KO KAKALIMUTAN ITO!
PARE-PAREHO TAYONG MAGTATAGO! HELL HATH NO FURY! LIKE A FATHER SCORNED! HA HA HA!
NATAHIMIK ANG GRUPO... NATAKOT LAHAT.
UMALIS SINA JENNY AT ARVIN ...SIMULA NG MAHABANG PAGTAKAS
AT ITO NGA ANG KARUGTONG... ANG PAGNANAKAW NI ARVIN NG KUWINTAS... PARA BIRTHDAY GIFT KAY JENNY...
SASAMA AKO... IBABALIK NATIN ANG KUWINTAS NA ITO...
TO BE CONTINUED

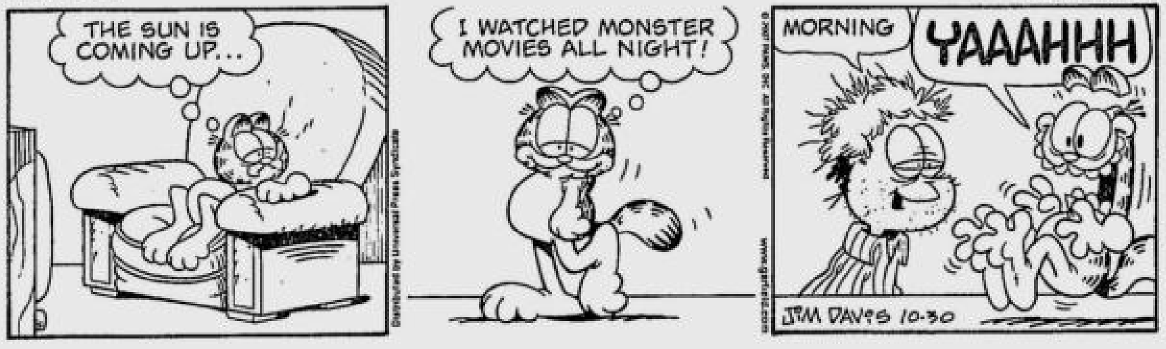
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NGIIIII!
BAKIT?
DI KO NA KILALA ANG KATAWANG TAO KO!
KANINONG KALULUWA KA BA?
SINO YUN?
KAY REMEDIOS
YUNG BABAENG PURO REMEDYO ANG KATAWAN!

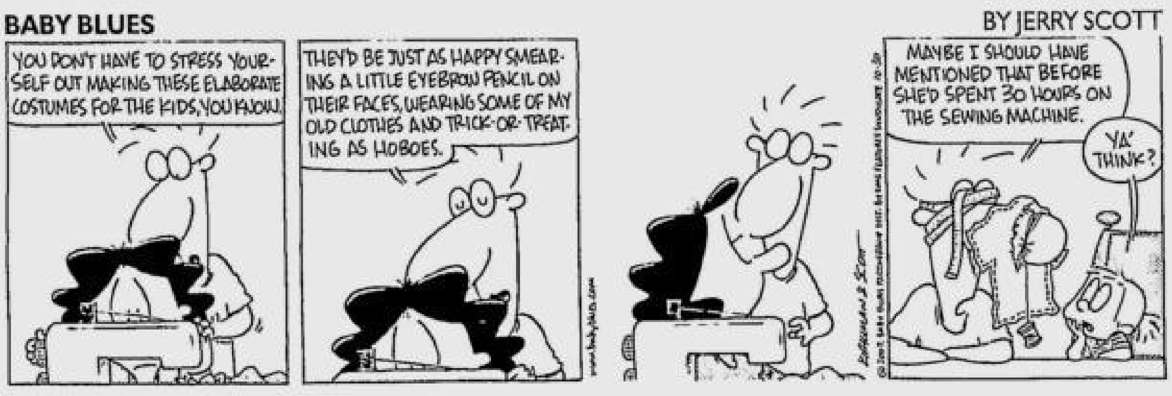
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AT ANO NAMAN ANG PAGKAKAIBA N'YANG WRIT OF AMBROSIA SA SENATE BILL 1772 O BATAS KASAMBAHAY NI JINGGOY?
SA BATAS NA ITO E WALANG MAAARTENG TERMINOLOHIYA NA MGA ABUGADO LANG ANG NAKAKA-INTINDI.
ANG LAHAT NA NAKASAAD DITO AY MADALING MAUNAWAAN NINUMAN!
FOR INSTANS, AYAW NAMING TINATAWAG KAMING TSIMAY, ATSAY, MUCHACHA O KATULONG. ANG POLITIKALI KOREK TERM AY HOME MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING ISFECIALISH!
WOW! LAYMAN'S TERMS NGA!

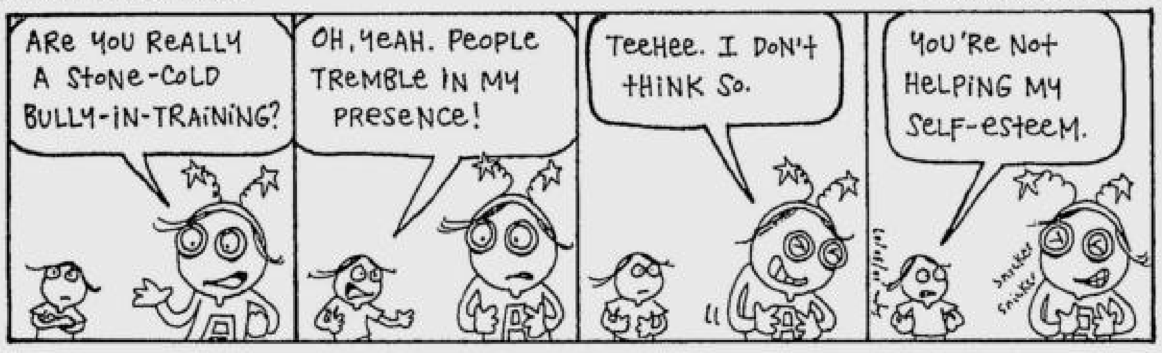
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


THE SUN IS COMING UP...
I WATCHED MONSTER MOVIES ALL NIGHT!
MORNING
YAAAHHH
JIM DAVIS 10-30

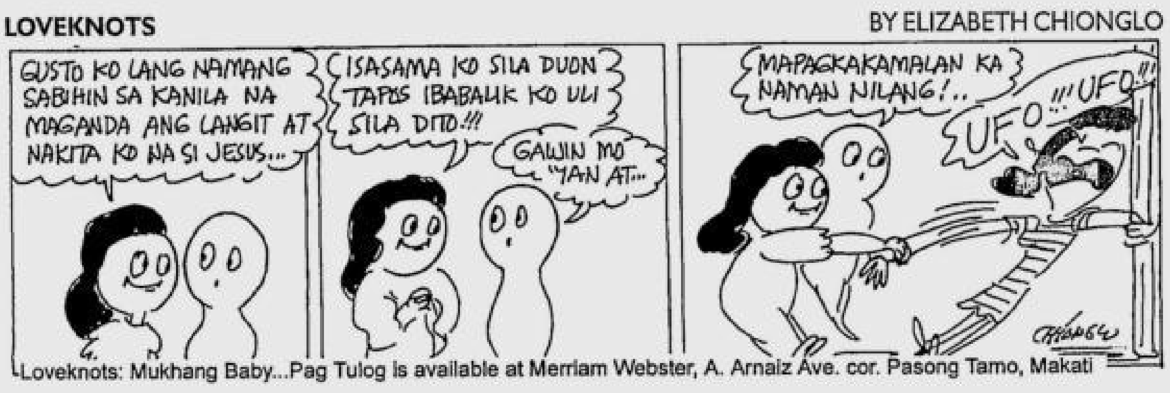
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU DON'T HAVE TO STRESS YOURSELF OUT MAKING THESE ELABORATE COSTUMES FOR THE KIDS, YOU KNOW.
THEY'D BE JUST AS HAPPY SMEARING A LITTLE EYEBROW PENCIL ON THEIR FACES, WEARING SOME OF MY OLD CLOTHES AND TRICK-OR-TREATING AS HOBOES.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THAT BEFORE SHE'D SPENT 30 HOURS ON THE SEWING MACHINE.
YA' THINK?

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

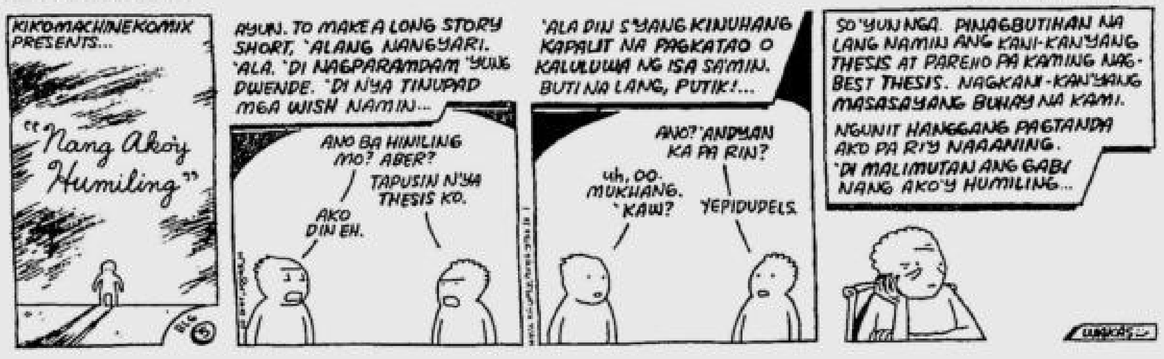

ARE YOU REALLY A STONE-COLD BULLY-IN-TRAINING?
OH, YEAH. PEOPLE TREMBLE IN MY PRESENCE!
TEEHEE. I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING MY SELF-ESTEEM.
SNICKER SNICKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

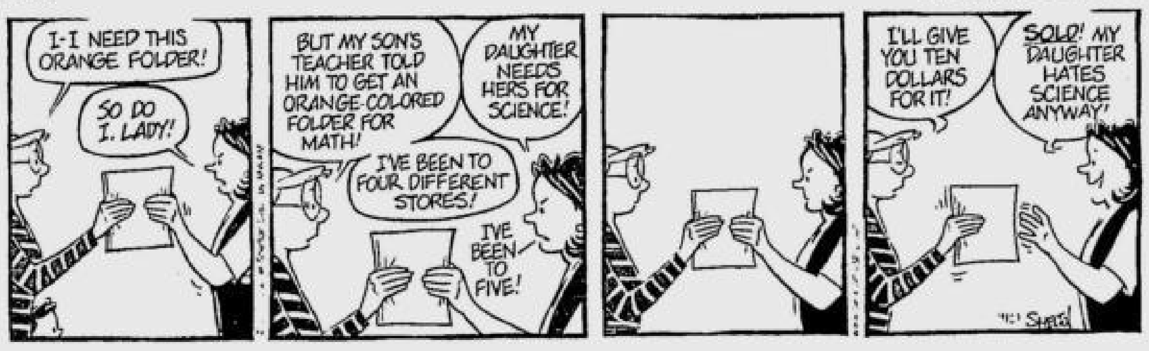

GUSTO KO LANG NAMANG SABIHIN SA KANILA NA MAGANDA ANG LANGIT AT NAKITA KO NA SI JESUS...
ISASAMA KO SILA DUON TAPOS IBABALIK KO ULI SILA DITO!!!
GAWIN MO 'YAN AT...
MAPAGKAKAMALAN KA NAMAN NILANG!..
UFO!!! UFO!!!
CHIONGLO

Loveknots: Mukhang Baby...Pag Tulog is available at Merriam Webster, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
"Nang Ako'y Humiling"
AYUN. TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, 'ALANG NANGYARI. 'ALA. 'DI NAGPARAMDAM 'YUNG DWENDE. 'DI NYA TINUPAD MGA WISH NAMIN...
ANO BA HINILING MO? ABER?
AKO DIN EH.
TAPUSIN N'YA THESIS KO.
'ALA DIN S'YANG KINUHANG KAPALIT NA PAGKATAO O KALULUWA NG ISA SA'MIN. BUTI NA LANG, PUTIK!...
ANO? ANDYAN KA PA RIN?
UH, OO. MUKHANG. 'KAW?
YEPIDUDELS.
SO 'YUN NGA. PINAGBUTIHAN NA LANG NAMIN ANG KANI-KANYANG THESIS AT PAREHO PA KAMING NAGBEST THESIS. NAGKANI-KAN'YANG MASASAYANG BUHAY NA KAMI.
NGUNIT HANGGANG PAGTANDA AKO PA R'Y NAAANING.
'DI MALIMUTAN ANG GABI NANG AKO'Y HUMILING...
WAKAS

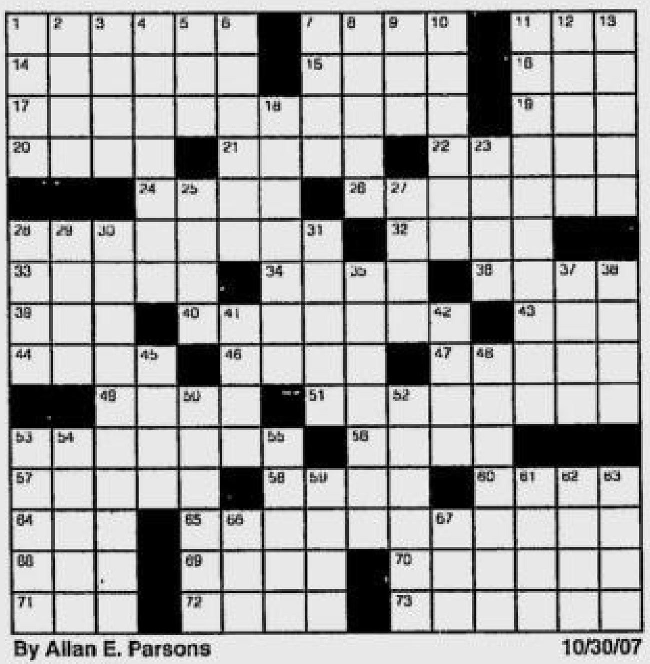
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I-I NEED THIS ORANGE FOLDER!
SO DO I, LADY!
BUT MY SON'S TEACHER TOLD HIM TO GET AN ORANGE-COLORED FOLDER FOR MATH!
MY DAUGHTER NEEDS HERS FOR SCIENCE!
I'VE BEEN TO FOUR DIFFERENT STORES!
I'VE BEEN TO FIVE!
I'LL GIVE YOU TEN DOLLARS FOR IT!
SOLD! MY DAUGHTER HATES SCIENCE ANYWAY!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Work hard
7 Big bike, colloquially
11 Orch. section
14 Pencil end
15 Banned spray
16 Ms. Zadora
17 Hit by the Doors
19 Stock-market abbr.
20 Kind of rubber
21 Minute amount
22 Hit the tub
24 Indigenous Japanese
26 Base thief
28 "__ Proposal"
32 Morales of "La Bamba"
33 Bay on the English Channel
34 Trot or canter
36 Puts on years
39 Compass dir.
40 Apparition
43 Monarch's letters
44 Cry of dismay
46 Indy-winner Luyendyk
47 Better
49 Doe's baby
51 Lionel product
53 Attempt to replicate
56 "...__ right with the world"
57 New Indian city?
58 "Do __ others..."
60 Small salamander
64 Unkindly
65 Monitor display
68 U.K. honor
69 Muffled sound
70 On one's back
71 Small bit
72 Meeting of Cong.
73 Beginnings

DOWN
1 Part of SASE
2 Small combo
3 Hindu music
4 Son of Abraham
5 Ex-G.I.
6 Royalty fur
7 Knife handle
8 False name
9 Armed conflict
10 Diving birds
11 Strong beams
12 Ten-percent donation
13 Daytona entry
18 Less mature
23 Perfect report card
25 Frosts
27 Beret filler
28 __ facto
29 Snack
30 Like some pillows
31 Unspoken
35 Say again
37 "Das Lied von der __"
38 Report
41 Huff and puff
42 Stir up
45 Solemn vow
48 Clicks open
50 Middle sections
52 "The Tempest" king
53 Dunce
54 Crisp toast
55 Greek god of the east wind
59 Beatty and Buntline
61 Actress Arden, casually
62 Left
63 Very: Fr.
66 Ernesto Guevara
67 Word before 17A, 65A, 11D and 30D



By Allan E. Parsons
Mentor, OH
10/30/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	A	D		M	A	W		M	U	P	P	E	T
M	A	L	I		P	R	O		A	S	H	O	R	E
U	Z	I	S		H	O	R		Y	E	A	R	N	S
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H	E	A	D	E	D		P	S	I		E	L	L	S
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10/30/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're strong-willed and multitalented. However, you're also willing to listen. This combination of qualities creates a strong respect for you in others that ultimately puts you in charge of things, especially at a grass-roots level. Value this; don't abuse it. In the next year, you might undergo a major change, perhaps as significant as around 1999.

Birthdate of: Diego Maradona, soccer player; Henry Winkler, actor; Grace Slick, singer/lyricist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel quite strongly about domestic issues or family matters today. In fact, you will defend whatever you believe in, or perhaps you will defend a family member. It's a busy day at home.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you have to sell, teach or convince anyone of anything today, you will be successful. You believe in what you're doing, which is why you will put your heart and soul into it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping." That's how you feel today. You feel emotional about spending money and perhaps even about earning it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Both the Moon and Mars are in your sign today. This makes you feisty, confident and ready to stand up for yourself. Those who disagree with you had better stand clear!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Trust your inner judgment today. If you think someone out there is working against your best interests, you very well could be right. Stay alert!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): All kinds of group activities will be successful today. Attend meetings, conferences, classes and even friendly group discussions. You'll love to participate!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Relations with bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures are not wishy-washy today. People, including you, have strong opinions about what should be done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): News from far away or something having to do with another country might alarm or excite you today. You won't take this casually. You want to take action!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel quite territorial about shared possessions and something you own in conjunction with somebody else. You're not in the mood to share or lend anything. (That's OK.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with partners and close friends could be a tad feisty today. Both the Moon and Mars oppose you now. Therefore, tread carefully and be as diplomatic and cooperative as you can. (Oh yeah!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can get a tremendous amount done at work today. You feel enthused and charged up about something. Whatever you accomplish will give you personal satisfaction.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Romance, love affairs and even casual flirtations are exciting today. Parents should be patient with children. Artists and creative types will be productive.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

5			8	2	9			4
		7				2		
	4						5	
4			3		7			1
9				6				8
8			5		4			7
	1						4	
		9				7		
7			2	3	6			9

Difficulty Level ★★
10/30

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	2	4	5	8	6	7	3
5	7	8	2	6	3	1	4	9
4	6	3	1	7	9	5	2	8
6	8	9	7	1	2	3	5	4
3	4	7	8	9	5	2	6	1
1	2	5	6	3	4	8	9	7
2	3	4	9	8	6	7	1	5
7	5	6	3	4	1	9	8	2
8	9	1	5	2	7	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★
10/29

Tips for a healthier you

YOU CAN BETTER ENJOY LIFE and cope with problems that come your way if you are healthy.

Here are some tips to help you lead a healthy life:

1. Job – Look for a career that is suited to you. Find a job that makes you happy.

2. Relationships – Spend time with loved ones. Life is sweeter when shared with friends and family. A laugh, a hug, and shared moments with people who matter make all the difference.

3. Stress – Love yourself. Spend quality time with the most important person—you. Read a book, get a massage, or just have some alone time to meditate or pray.

4. Fitness – Hit the gym. Get moving. Do at least 30 minutes of physical activity. Commit to a routine, or find fun ways to stay in shape and feel good, like dancing, gardening, swimming, walking, or jogging.

5. Diet – Watch what you eat. Fruits and vegetables and less saturated fat can help improve your health and reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. It will also make you feel less sluggish.

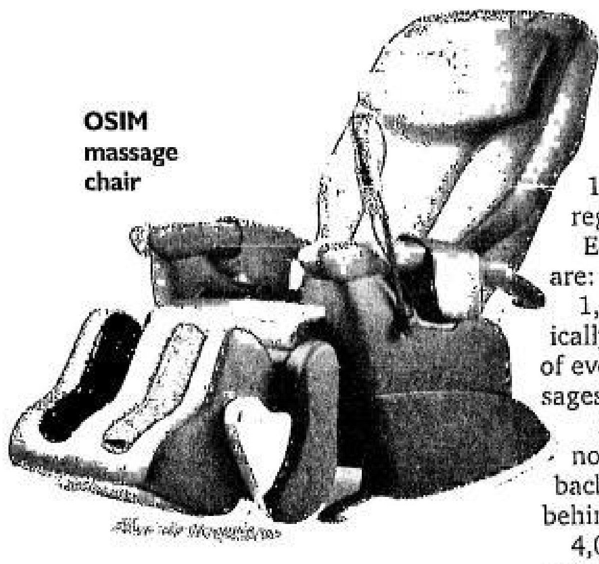
Hydrate at all times to maintain energy. The body loses about 2½ liters of water each day.

But during periods of intense physical activity, sports, exercises, workouts, or during a busy work day, you may need more than just water.

Maintain electrolyte balance with 100 Plus, a high-performance beverage. It eliminates body thirst better and faster while allowing rapid absorption of vital electrolytes and minerals for continued energy.

The beverage provides potassium, calcium, sodium, chloride, phosphate and carbohydrates, replenishing minerals lost through sweat or physical activities.

100 Plus has less sugar than many beverages in the market. It is lightly carbonated to give a crisp taste, leaving you feeling instantly refreshed.



OSIM massage chair

Free miles the healthy way

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES MABUHAY Miles members can earn 1,500-12,500 free mileage credits by buying regular-priced Osim items.

Equivalent free miles of Osim items are:

1,500 miles. The Osim iSqueez is specifically designed to relieve negative effects of everyday stress on legs and feet. It massages calves, ankles, and feet all at once.

2,500 miles. The Osim iGallop is an innovative exercise that simulates horseback riding, naturally giving flat abs, firm behind, and toned thighs.

4,000 miles. The Noro Melody Massage Chair improves blood circulation, relieves fatigue and muscle aches, and relaxes tired and stiff muscles.

6,500 miles. The iMedic Pro Massage Chair has massages for arms, body and legs.

9,000 miles. The iSymphonic Massage Chair provides a massage to one's favorite tune. It provides both physical and mental relaxation.

12,500 miles. The Osim iDesire provides total health care from head to toe. Incorporating state-of-the-art technology in every facet of its design, the iDesire delivers a full-body massage experience.

Participating Osim branches are Health Plus, The Podium Mall; Osim Greenhills Parklane, Osim Alabang Town Center, Osim SM Mall of Asia, Osim/GNC SM Megamall, Osim/GNC SM Baguio, and Osim/GNC SM Cebu.

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

How do we prevent osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis is an age-related disorder that is characterized by the loss of the normal density of bone leading to an increased fracture risk. It is important to build up calcium stores in our bones at a young age. This can be done through good nutrition with the intake of Calcium and Vitamin D, which are both essential for strong bones. Calcium may be taken through the diet or through oral supplements. Vitamin D is needed for the body to absorb calcium. It is taken in from the diet, vitamin supplements or from our skin. Bones are living tissues that respond to exercise by becoming stronger. That is why weight bearing exercises are highly recommended to maintain bone mass. Exercise may also increase muscle strength and improve one's balance, thus, decreasing the risk of falling and sustaining a fracture. Lifestyle changes may also help in preventing osteoporosis: cessation of smoking, limiting alcohol intake, exercising regularly and eating a well-balanced diet. Hormonal replacement therapy may be given to menopausal women since hormones play a role in preserving bone mass in women. A bone mineral density test (BMD) is the best way to diagnose osteoporosis and determine your risk for future fractures. You may want to talk to your health care provider about this test and the available medications used in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

This week's answer to our feature question is provided by our accredited Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Richard John Pecson. Doc Ricky, as he is commonly addressed by his patients, has been in practice for 7 years now. A diplomate of the Philippine Board of Orthopedics, he finished his residency training for his specialization at Makati Medical Center. He is also a fellow of The Philippine Orthopedic Association. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at Rm. 303 of San Pedro Hospital of Davao City every Monday to Friday 9-12nn/2-5pm and every Saturday 9-12noon. You may also set an appointment with Doc Ricky at Davao Medical School Foundation Hospital

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Ernesto G. Olympia, MD, FPCP, FPSG, FPSDE

Question:

I have been having abdominal pain and based on what I've seen on TV, I think this is dyspepsia but my friend told me he had the same condition and he was diagnosed to have GERD. Are these two conditions different?

Doctor Says...

Abdominal pain may be a manifestation of several diseases. Like your friend, it will be best for you to consult a doctor to have the proper diagnosis and management of your condition.

There is a significant overlap between the symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and dyspepsia. The reality of a pure GERD or dyspepsia is rare and what we usually see in the clinics are patients sharing one or two symptoms with the other. It is important though to make the distinction, as the underlying cause and management are different.

GERD is the occurrence of symptoms referable to reflux that are severe enough to impair a person's quality of life. This is brought about by the backflow of acid from the stomach to the esophagus due to the unusual relaxation of the muscle between them, called lower esophageal sphincter. This phenomenon can generate symptom of heartburn or burning sensation in the chest. In addition, one may experience chest pain, epigastric pain, burping, and acid taste in the mouth. At times, the symptoms of GERD originate outside the esophagus (known as paraesophageal symptoms) and may include coughing, hoarseness, inflammation of the voice box (laryngitis), and even dental carries. Diagnosis of GERD may be made from the symptom presentation or from documenting the injury or break in the lining of the esophagus, which is a hallmark of GERD by endoscopy (where the doctor inserts a scope into the patient's mouth down to the esophagus). A more sensitive modality to make the diagnosis is by detecting the presence of acid in the esophagus by a pH monitor (where probes are placed in the patient's esophagus).

Dyspepsia on the other hand, is a chronic (or long-term) and recurrent pain centered in the upper abdomen. It is due to a derangement arising from the gastrointestinal tract, or to a disturbance in function without any chemical or anatomical abnormalities. The latter is called functional dyspepsia, defined by its occurrence after a meal and the absence of relief from bowel movement. It is believed that the mechanism behind the disturbance is the abnormal and uncoordinated movement of the stomach and small intestines, as well as the heightened and inappropriate sensitivity of the upper gut. Symptoms of dyspepsia are usually observed after food intake and may include fullness, bloating, and early satiety. It may also come in the form of pain in the upper stomach or an increased sensation of acid.

GERD and dyspepsia are experienced over a long period of time, thus taking a big economic toll and negatively affecting quality of life. Complications can develop in GERD in the form of different degrees of esophageal injury, to narrowing (stricture-formation), to cancer. Dyspepsia however, takes a more benign course over the years.

Management of GERD and dyspepsia do overlap to a certain degree. Treatment of GERD relies heavily on medicine to control acid (proton-pump inhibitors and H2-receptor antagonists). Sometimes, surgical approach is necessary to address the complications. Patients with dyspepsia receive medicines to improve motility (prokinetic agents) and to reduce gut sensitivity (opiates and analgesics). They also respond to drugs that control acid.

On consultation, your physician will be in the best position to determine whether you have gastroesophageal reflux disease or dyspepsia. By being aware of the differences, make the most of your next visit with your doctor by participating fully in the discussions on the management of your condition.

Dr. Olympia is a gastroenterologist. He is an active consultant at the Makati Medical Center where he holds clinics. Dr. Olympia is also the current Chairperson of the Section of Gastroenterology at the Makati Medical Center.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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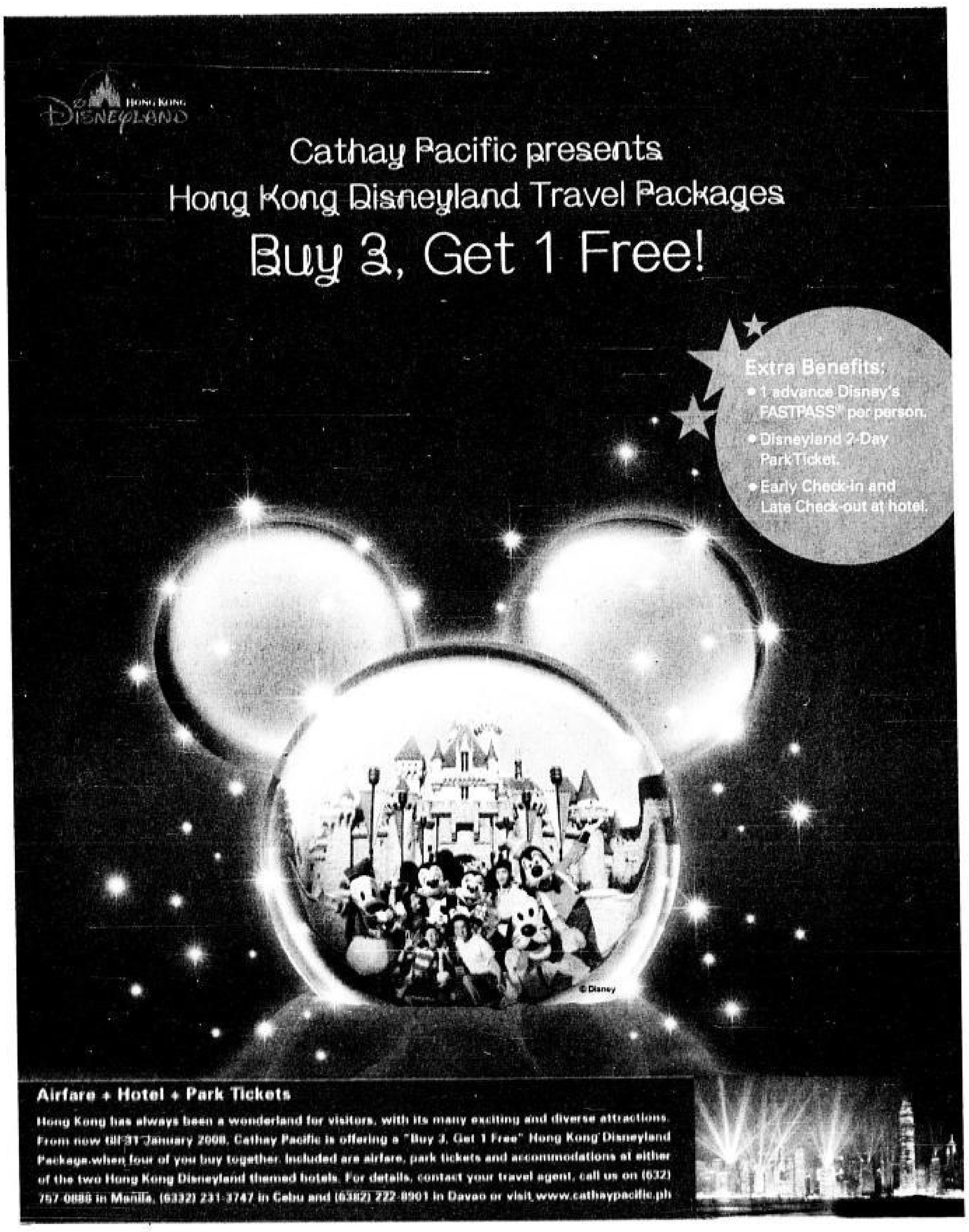

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INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

What are the orbs in photos?

> It was theorized they were merely dust particles or water droplets

IN PHOTOS YOU HAVE TAKEN, ESPECIALLY with a digital camera, do you notice globules of light like little moons?

They can appear on any part of the picture. Sometimes there is only one and may be inconspicuous at first; other times there are so many they cover the entire picture.

If you have those circular lights on your pictures, then you have captured images of what are called "orbs." Lately, more and more orbs are appearing in pictures taken by digital cameras.

The first to call my attention to these strange lights was movie actress Rosanna Roces. She told me about two years ago that they had appeared in almost all the pictures she took everywhere.

I thought at first they were Santelmos or St. Elmo's fire, fireballs seen usually in marshlands or swamps.

But when Osang showed one of her photos, they were definitely not St. Elmo's fire.

She told me she found out she could even command them to appear where she wanted them to be seen on the picture.

Convinced

Her former husband Tito did not believe her. So she asked the orbs to appear on his head before she took a picture and they were all there. Next, she asked the orbs to appear at his feet and they all did. He finally believed her.

Soon after Osang showed me pictures of the orbs, other people began telling me that orbs appeared in their pictures, too. So I began to be really curious, but could not find any reference to them anywhere.

Then I saw an article in Fate Magazine, an American publication devoted to the strange and supernatural. I have been a subscriber to this magazine for a long time but that was the first time the subject of orbs ever came out.

At first there was a great deal of skepticism about the objects. It was theorized they were merely dust particles or water droplets. The theories were later abandoned as more people began examining them.

I wrote a letter to Fate Magazine about my own observations, which was published two years ago.

I found that if you enlarged the orbs, especially the brightest ones, there were geometrical figures or even strange faces in them. Some look like the surface of the moon with craters.

Other figures look like extra-terrestrials' (ET's) heads with big black diamond-shaped eyes, small noses and mouths.

Orbs are mostly circular. But later Osang took pictures of diamond, oval and triangle shapes. They had white, blue, orange and violet colors.

Women only

Strangely enough, orbs seem to appear only in photos taken by women. Some of them are getting scared.

What do these orbs mean? Why do they appear only in some people's photos and not in others? Is there any danger connected with those pictures? Are they warnings of bad things to come?

So far, I have not heard of anything bad happening to people who have taken pictures of orbs.

The only negative incident I heard was told to us during a television program in August where I was a resource person on this paranormal occurrence.

Television personality Alicia Mayer said she took pictures in a Singapore hotel. In almost all the pictures, many orbs appeared.

That night, one of their companions named Paul was sleeping on the tenth floor when he was suddenly lifted up. He fell to the seventh floor and broke several ribs but survived.

I told Alicia the two events, the appearance of orbs and Paul's accident did not have to be causally related. It could be just coincidence.

In my opinion, it was likely that negative, earthbound spirits played a trick on Paul or tried to kill him. They told me they felt a strange, eerie feeling in that hotel. So I cannot attribute that fall to the orbs.

As I said, most reports I received on orbs were harmless.

This really calls for further investigation because pictures of orbs appear almost everywhere lately. The wife of a high government official told me, quite anxiously, that orbs must be following her because her pictures in China, France, England and Rome were filled with them. She was getting scared.

Even photos she took back home also had orbs. She found a book about orbs, "Beyond Photography," by a British author but it did not answer fundamental questions.

What are they? Why do they appear? Where do they come from? Are they dangerous?

The only way to answer these questions is to get more facts.

We are asking people who have had orbs in their pictures to contact us and give us copies, with a written description of where, when and under what circumstances they were taken, and the cameras used.

We also want to know if they noticed anything strange before and after taking the photos.

Call 8107245, 8926806 or 0917-8493998; fax 8159890 or e-mail inner-awareness_2005@yahoo.com.ph

Recognize. . .

From page D1

World Trade Center.

Sick and tired of popping tranquilizers to cure her depression, she appealed to Shirley for a natural solution to her persistent problem.

A potion called "Uplift" made of essential oils and applied on the pulse and temples was given to her. Within minutes, she felt relief.

A man in his 60s, wanting to get a good night's sleep, was desperately looking for a safe way to end his sleepless nights. He was given "Deep Sleep" to rub on pulse points at bedtime.

Feeling triumphant and like a new man, he said he had not slept better in his life. He fell asleep within 15 minutes of applying the essential oils.

Aromatherapy has been around for ages. It is used by many practitioners of natural medicine.

Some popular oils are: tea tree for skin blemishes, rashes, irritations (athlete's foot/sores); lavender—relaxes/soothes tired body and mind, eases blood pressure; peppermint—eases digestive problems, soothes headaches/migraine; rose—balances the nervous system, fights depression, regulates hormones.

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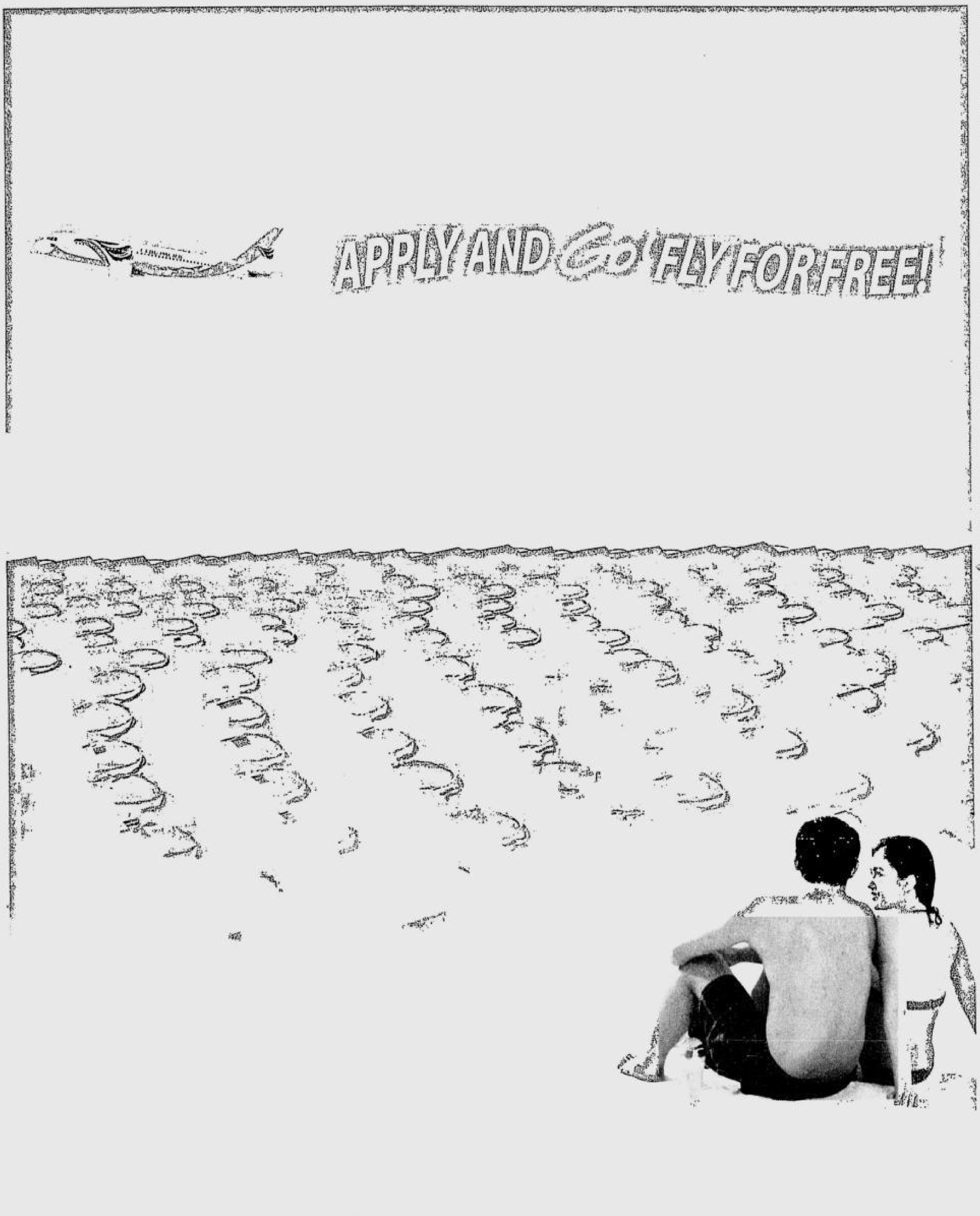
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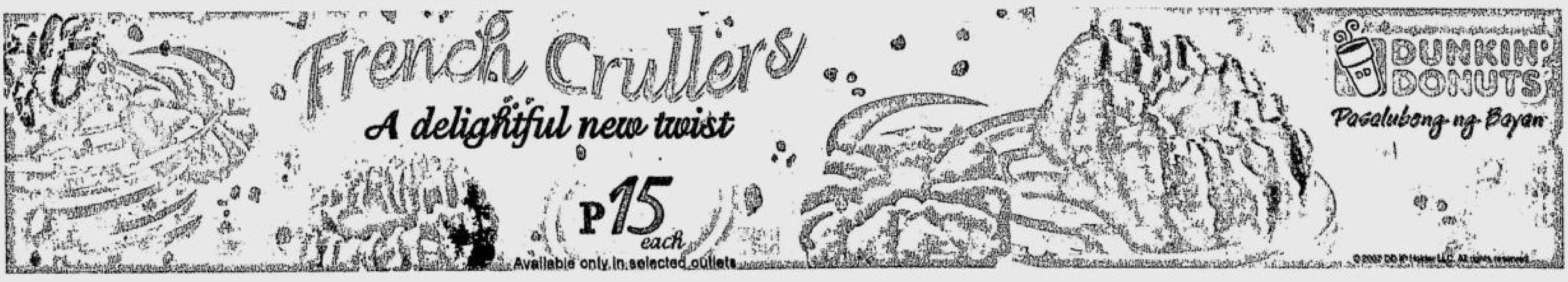
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Is Sunshine Dizon's name a misnomer?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

THE WORDS "MY LIFE… MY Choice" is emblazoned on Angelu de Leon's multiply.com homepage. That must have been her mantra after going through a roller-coaster ride with **Joko Diaz and Jojo Manlongat**, the fathers of her two love children.

She's unaffected by talk that Jojo's current GF, **Sunshine Dizon**, is irked at her revelation that Jojo is the dad of her youngest kid. But isn't that the prerogative of Angelu as a mom? Why can't Sunshine have a sunny attitude towards Jojo's past?

Speaking of Sunshine, she's also peeved that her ex, **Polo Ravales**, is telling the press that given a choice, he would go back to her among all his ex-GFs. She says Polo should have told her straight instead of spreading it around.

Shouldn't she be flattered that a sought-after guy like Polo is shouting to high heavens that he still desires her? Why has Sunshine turned so glum? Now her name seems to be a misnomer.

Who's vain?

JAKE **Cuenca** will shoot a TV ad for a skin product that has long been associated with fair-skinned women. He will be the first endorser of the new male product line.

It only goes to show that men these days are as vain as women. So who says men are from Mars and women are from Venus? They are both from Planet Vanity!

Piolo's message

I came across this message from Piolo Pascual dated Oct. 18 to his avid followers in http://pilopascualadiks.multiply.com:

"Thanks for your concern :) Please extend my gratitude to everyone… A lot of people are being used by God to defend us. I keep holding on to what's eternal and

IS SUNSHINE/ E2

MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
I need to lose weight …
TRICK OR TREAT?
HAPPY HALLOWEEN
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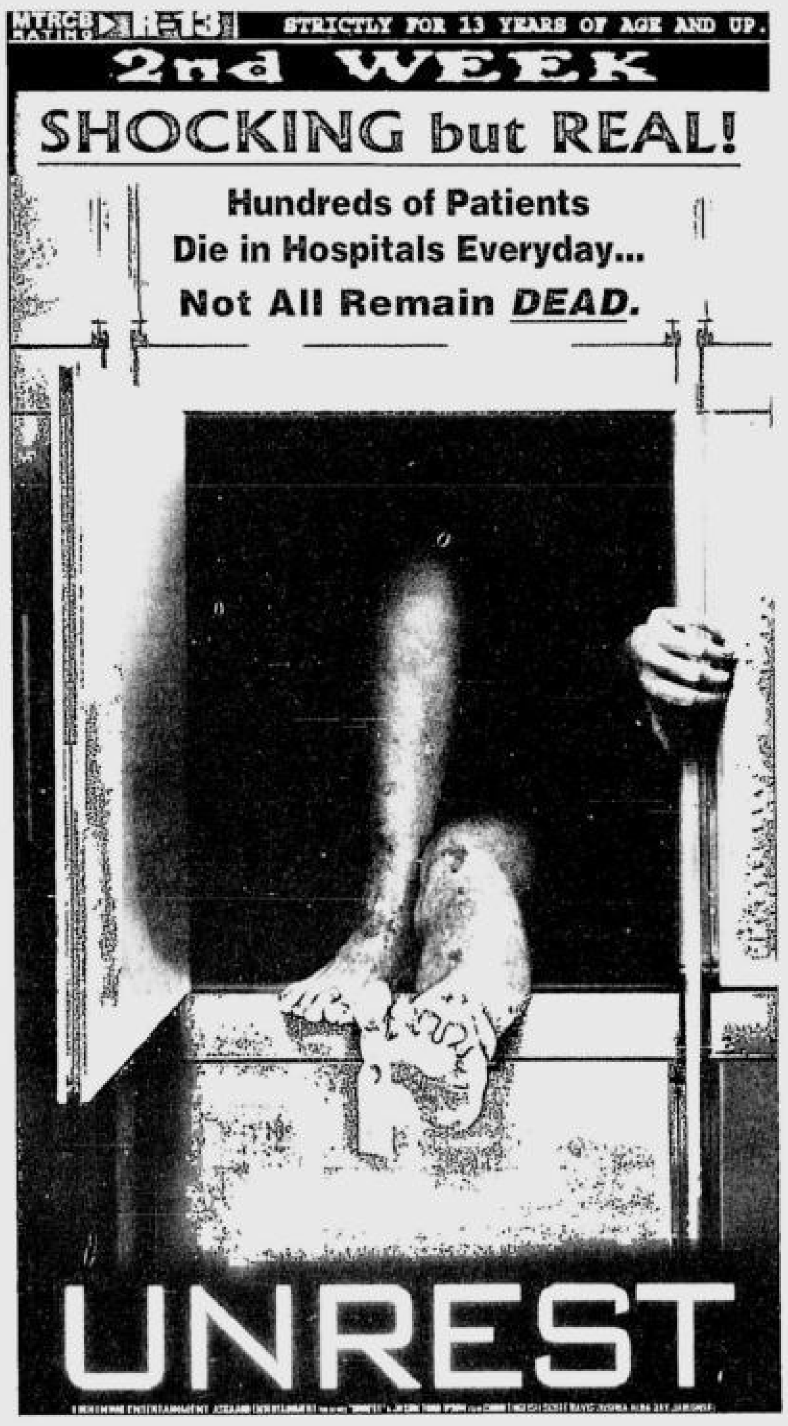
MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.
DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
STILL NO.1 NATIONWIDE ON ITS 4TH WEEK!

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)
5TH WEEK
We have witnessed the BEGINNING…
We have seen the APOCALYPSE…
Now we face EXTINCTION.
STILL THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED
2ND WEEK
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM… COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!
SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
JAKE GYLLENHAAL REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION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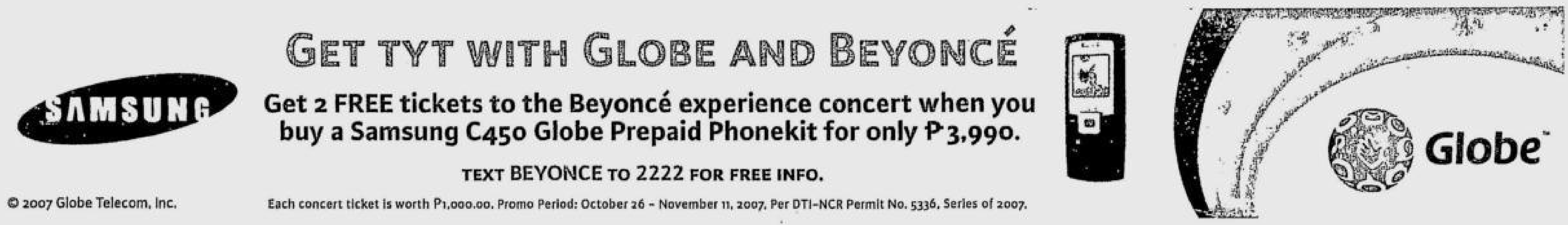
2nd WEEK
SHOCKING but REAL!
Hundreds of Patients Die in Hospitals Everyday…
Not All Remain DEAD.
UNREST

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
A HUGE COMEDY WITH A TINY BALLS
BALLS OF FURY
DAN FOGLER · CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
GEORGE LOPEZ · MAGGIE Q
THOMAS LENNON · ROBERT PATRICK
OPENS TOMORROW
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
ROGUE PICTURES


GET TYT WITH GLOBE AND BEYONCÉ
SAMSUNG
Get 2 FREE tickets to the Beyoncé experience concert when you buy a Samsung C450 Globe Prepaid Phonekit for only ₱3,990.
TEXT BEYONCE TO 2222 FOR FREE INFO.
Globe
© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc.
Each concert ticket is worth P1,000.00. Promo Period: October 26 - November 11, 2007, Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5336, Series of 2007.

Is Sunshine Dizon's…

From page E1

that's the Lord's promise to keep me safe and unharmed. It's OK, the battle is ours to win… At the end of the day, good still defeats evil…"

Apparently, PJ is referring to the Sofitel brouhaha stirred up by **Lolit Solis**. He's right about the battle between good and evil which is never-ending in show biz. The trouble is, sometimes you don't know who the enemy really is because everyone pretends to be your friend in this "beso-beso, chika-chika" world.

Book review

AUBREY Miles' brief review about the book "Why Men Love Bitches" by **Sherry Vyor** in her multiply site caught my attention:

"This book is for those girls who are too nice to their boyfriends. You have to learn to say 'No.' This book is a description for independent women who know how to handle their business."

Is that book Aubrey's official guide to making her romance with **Troy Montero** go the extra mile? Ohhhh! brey!

Debutante

IN LIEU of a lavish debut party, **Shaina Magdayao** will celebrate her 18th birthday with her family in Japan on Nov. 6. I wonder if her

IS SUNSHINE/ E4

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA

2 RENDITION
MTRCB R-13
12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

3 LUST, CAUTION
MTRCB: R-18
12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (PG-13)
12:40, 3:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE GAME PLAN (GP)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

MTRCB ▶ R-18 No one below 18 years of age may be admitted

FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS

TONY LEUNG — Introducing TANG WEI — LEEHOM WANG

TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART… AND BREAK HER OWN.

AN ANG LEE FILM

LUST CAUTION 戒 色

WINNER OF THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AT THE 64TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

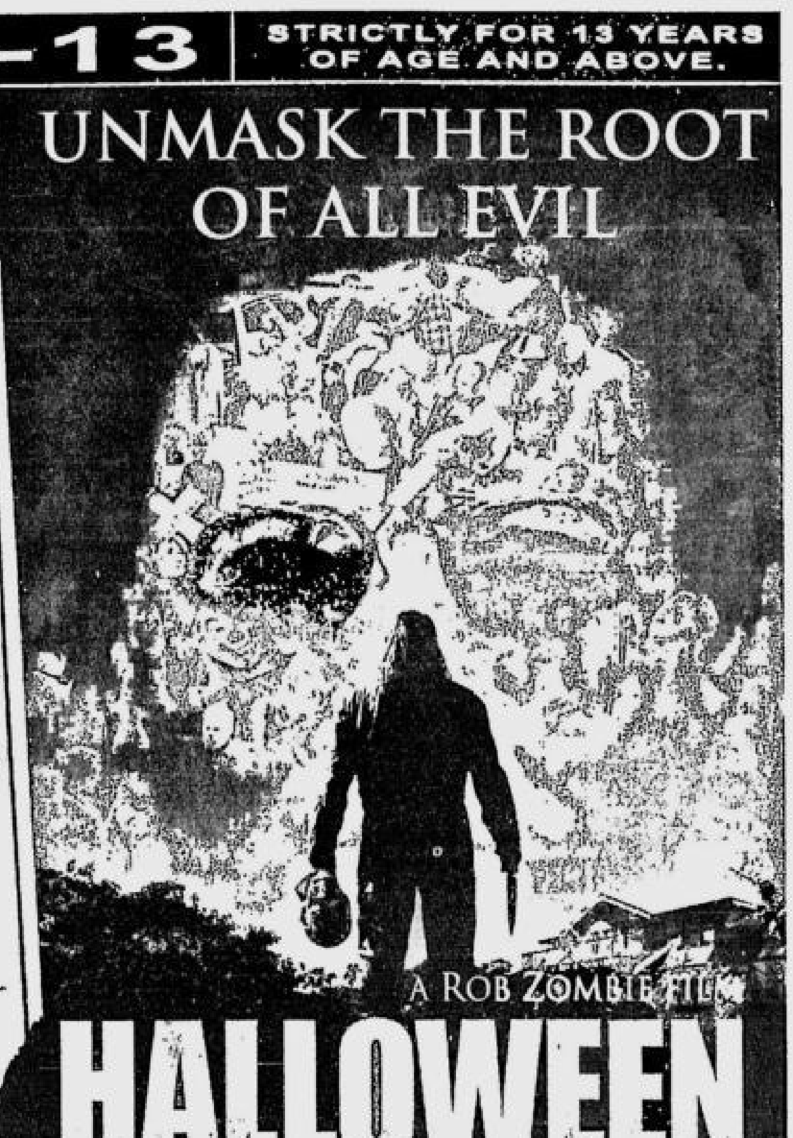
SPECIAL SCREENINGS TODAY
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS

Distributed by Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.

HORROR'S BIGGEST GROSSING OPENING WEEKEND: 2007

HALLOWEEN	30,591,759
DISTURBIA	22,224,982
1408	20,667,667
MESSENGERS	17,713,321
30 DAYS OF NIGHT	15,591,902
28 WEEKS LATER	9,807,292


UNMASK THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL
A ROB ZOMBIE FILM

HALLOWEEN
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW

www.viva.com.ph VIVA

Araneta Center
araneta center.net

Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
gatewaycineplex10.com

ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

UNREST 12:30/2:45/5:00/7:15/9:30	GAMEPLAN 12:10/2:30/4:50/7:10/9:30	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 2:00/4:30/7:00/9:30	PLATINUM CINEMA
RENDITION 12:30/3:30/6:30/9:30	LUST CAUTION 12:10/3:10	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 12:50/5:30/9:40	
MR WOODCOCK 1:50/4:10 KNOCKED UP 6:30/9:20	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 3:10/7:50 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 2:30/4:30/7:00/9:30	STARDUST 12:35/3:30/6:25/9:20	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 4:00/9:00 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 1:30/6:30

ALIMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:30/3:00/5:30/8:00	UNREST 1:40/3:55/6:10/8:25

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

2007 WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP Nov. 3 to 11, 2007	AI AI AI … D Greatest Performance Of MY Life Nov. 16, Friday 8pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph.

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION	3 THE UNREST	4 THE GAMEPLAN			
GLORIETTA 4	1 THE GAMEPLAN	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	5 FRIGHTFEST	6 RENDITION	7 LUST CAUTION
GREENBELT 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE GAMEPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GAMEPLAN	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 RENDITION	4 THE 11TH HOUR	5 LUST CAUTION		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 EVENING	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAMEPLAN	2 LUST CAUTION	3 RENDITION	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 THE UNREST		
TRINOMA	1 LUST CAUTION	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 THE UNREST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STARDUST	6 RENDITION	7 THX THE GAMEPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
- All-Digital Sound
- All-Stadium Seating
- Computerized Ticketing System
- Recliner Seats

HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL

SHOWCASING MASTERPIECE OF WES CRAVEN, JOHN CARPENTER & ALFRED HITCHCOCK FROM OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 4

NOW SHOWING *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

DEAD SILENCE

DEAD SILENCE

From the writers and director of international phenomenon SAW comes an experience on the razor's edge of fear. A widower returns to his hometown to search for answers to his wife's murder, which may be linked to the ghost of the murdered ventriloquist.

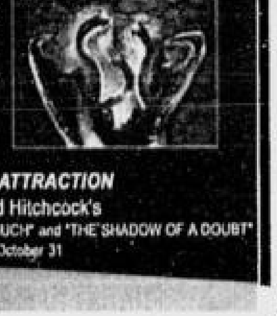
Screening Schedules: 12:30 pm, 5:30 & 10:30

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

TREMORS 4 THE LEGEND BEGINS

The worms are back but this time in a prequel, set in 1889 Nevada as silver mines inspector Hiram Gummer, the great-grandfather of Burt Gummer, arrives in the small settlement of Rejection Valley and faces off against the so-called graboid worm monsters devouring the local inhabitants.

Screening Schedules: 3:00 pm & 8:00 pm



WATCH HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL & GET SPECIAL TREATS FROM
Promo Period: October 26 to November 4, 2007
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI NCR Permit # A2-470 Series of 2007

NEXT ATTRACTION
Alfred Hitchcock's
"THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH" and "THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT"
October 31

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

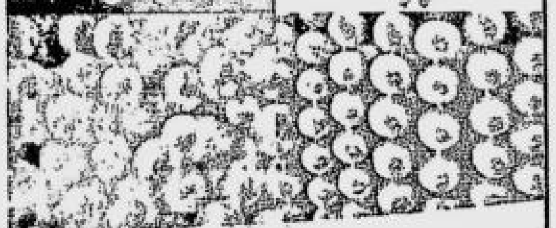
glorietta	Halloween Treat: Dorothy and the Witches of Oz - A Trumpets Musical Theater Performance October 28; 5pm to 6pm; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Dole Pumpkin Carving Contest October 28; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Clear Product Launch October 27 to 28; Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Sesame Street Party November 2; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

SALE UP TO 50% OFF
Oct. 15 - Nov. 15, 2007

South Sea Pearls and Fresh Water Pearls

THE Pearl Market
Pearls & Semi-Precious Stones
Ground Floor, Gift Market!

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-438, SERIES OF 2007



glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

SM CINEMA

moviectime SHOWTIME

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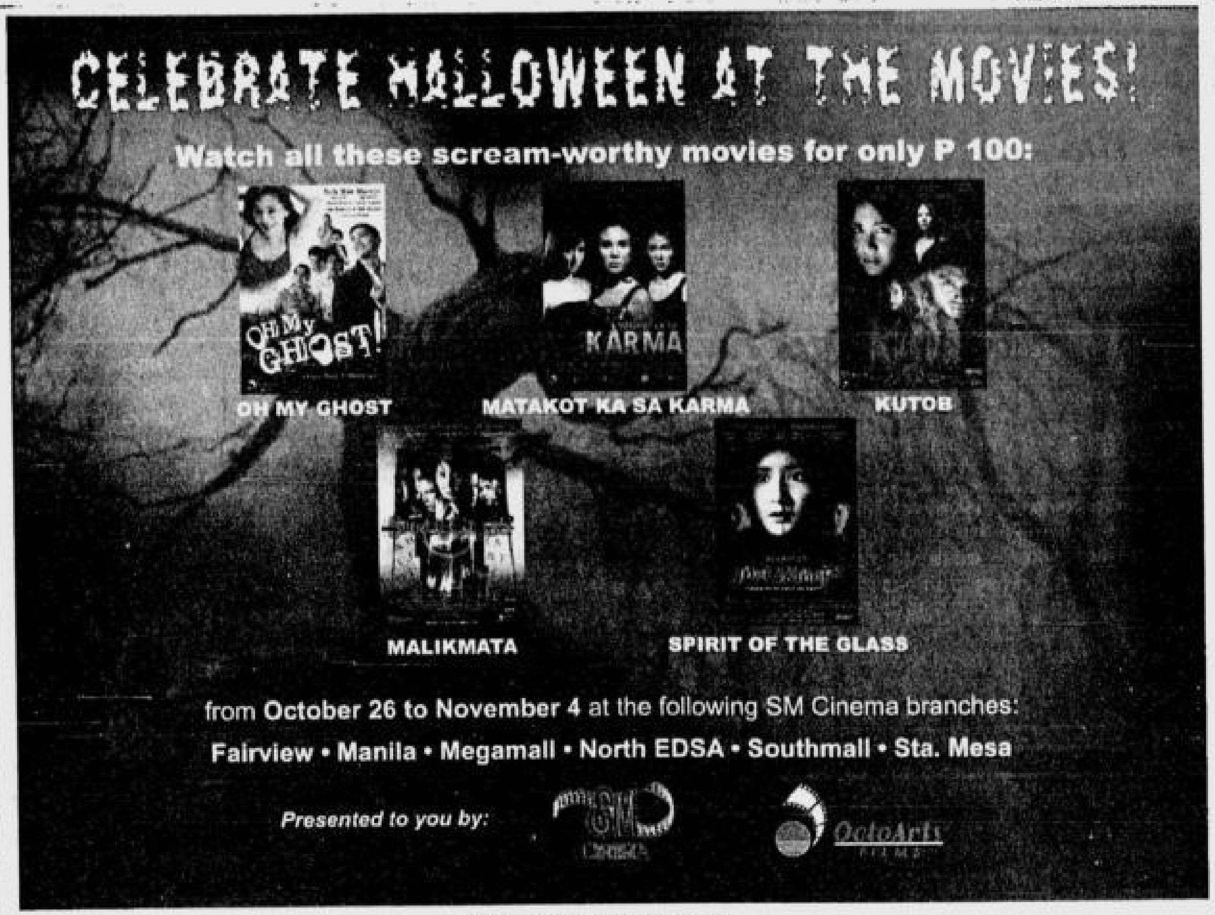
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie



CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT THE MOVIES!

Watch all these scream-worthy movies for only P 100:

OH MY GHOST
MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
KUTOB
MALIKMATA
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

from **October 26 to November 4** at the following SM Cinema branches:

Fairview • Manila • Megamall • North EDSA • Southmall • Sta. Mesa

Presented to you by:

OctoArts FILMS

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D 1:00 PM • 2:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 8:30 PM	Admission Price: P250
T-REX 3D 4:00 PM	Admission Price: P250
SPACE STATION 5:30 PM	Admission Price: P200

1. RENDITION
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. MR. WOODCOCK
5. UNREST
6. THE GAMEPLAN

PREMIERE CINEMA
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
CENTERSTAGE
STARDUST
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
THE GAMEPLAN
CINEMA 2
RENDITION
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. MR. WOODCOCK
4. STARDUST
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. **RESERVED**
7. THE GAMEPLAN
8. RENDITION
9. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10. KUNG FU FIGHTER
11. UNREST
12. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. 11TH HOUR
2. STARDUST
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5. RENDITION
6. THE GAMELAN
7. ROGUE ASSASSIN
8. KUNG FU FIGHTER
9. UNREST
10. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
12. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. RENDITION
2. MR. WOODCOCK
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3
5. HIGHLANDER V
6. STARDUST
7. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10. KUNG FU FIGHTER
11. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
12. THE GAMEPLAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2. THE GAMEPLAN
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5. APAT DAPAT,DAPAT APAT
6. RESIDENT EVIL
7. RENDITION
8. HIGHLANDER V
9. STARDUST
10. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. THE GAMEPLAN
2. RENDITION
3. UNREST
4. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. THE GAMEPLAN
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. UNREST
4. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7. STARDUST
8. RENDITION
9. RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2. HIGHLANDER V
3. THE GAMEPLAN
4. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. THE GAMEPLAN
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5. UNREST
6. **RESERVED**
7. STARDUST
8. RENDITION
9. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
10. KUNG FU FIGHTER
11. RETRIBUTION
12. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. RISE
3. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4. NO RESERVATIONS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. RENDITION
3. MR. WOODCOCK
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. HIGHLANDER V
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4. THE GAMEPLAN

Half his size,
twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.

DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON

Walt Disney

THE GAMEPLAN

SNEAK PREVIEW

October 29 and 30 (Monday and Tuesday)

Fairview, Bicutan, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, and The Podium

REGULAR SHOWING STARTS NOVEMBER 7

MTRCB Rating: G (All Ages Admitted)

© Disney

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1. RENDITION
2. STARDUST
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. RETRIBUTION
5. RESIDENT EVIL 3
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8. OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. STARDUST
4. RETRIBUTION
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. EVENING

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1. SHOOT EM' UP
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. NO RESERVATIONS
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. DECEMBER BOYS
3. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4. THE HOST

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. RETRIBUTION
4. WEDDING DAZE
5. EVENING
6. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1. DECEMBER BOYS
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1. DECEMBER BOYS/ I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. RISE
4. SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. STARDUST
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. HIGHLANDER V
4. MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1. NO RESERVATIONS
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1. SHOOT EM' UP
2. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3. NO RESERVATIONS
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6. STARDUST

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1. STARDUST
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. RETRIBUTION
4. SKINWALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. NO RESERVATIONS
2. ROGUE ASSASSIN
3. RETRIBUTION
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3
5. DECEMBER BOYS
6. **RESERVED**
7. **RESERVED**
8. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1. STARDUST
2. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3. SHOOT EM' UP
4. FRIGHT FEST/ EVENING
5. RETRIBUTION
6. DECEMBER BOYS
7. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. STARDUST
3. WEDDING DAZE
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine : 130 632-9116

1 STARDUST • THX
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MANILA PRIDE FEST
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 RENDITION
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

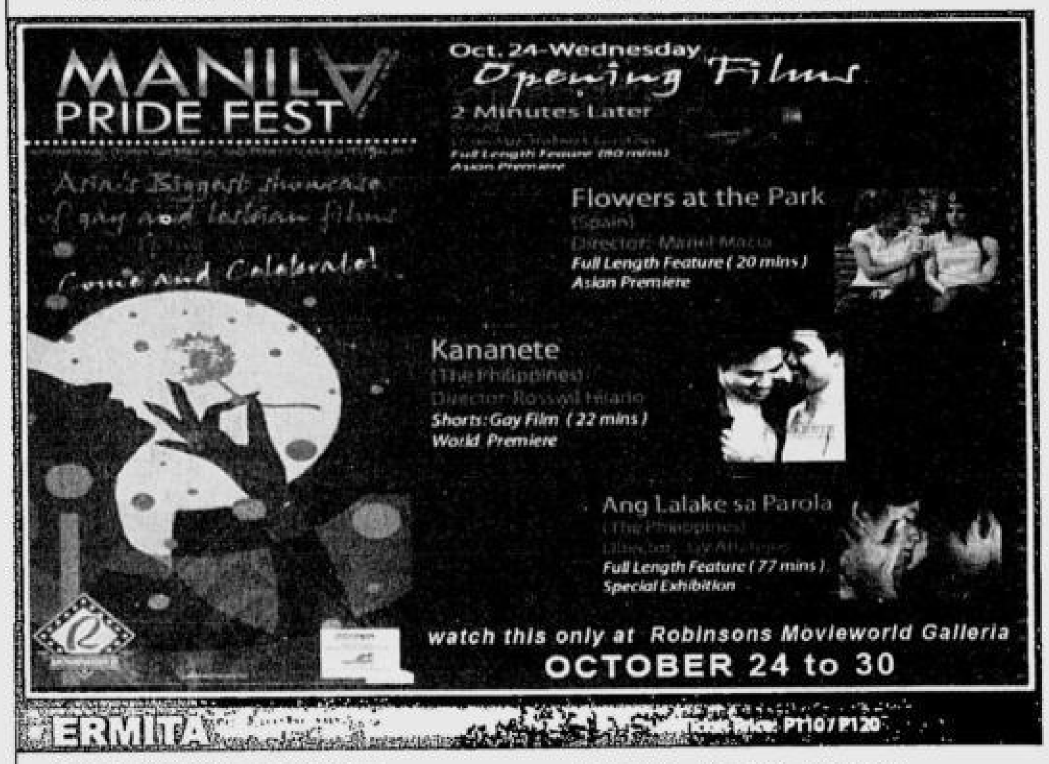
6 GAMEPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 UNREST
12:40 3:005:20 7:40 10:00

8 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
1:

9 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50



MANILA PRIDE FEST

Asia's Biggest Showcase of gay and lesbian films

Come and Celebrate!

Oct. 24-Wednesday
Opening Films

2 Minutes Later
Full Length Feature (80 mins)
Asian Premiere

Flowers at the Park
(Spain)
Director: Manel Macia
Full Length Feature (20 mins)
Asian Premiere

Kananete
(The Philippines)
Director: Rosswil Hilario
Shorts: Gay Film (22 mins)
World Premiere

Ang Lalake sa Parola
(The Philippines)
Full Length Feature (77 mins)
Special Exhibition

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
OCTOBER 24 to 30

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 RENDITION
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 UNREST
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 GAMEPLAN

METRO EAST

Ticket Price P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 GAMEPLAN

2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 UNREST
12:15 2:30 4:45 7.00 9:10

5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 LUST CAUTION
11:40 2:40 5:40 9:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

8 RENDITION
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

NOVALICHES

935-3221 / 935-3220-30

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 GAMEPLAN
3 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER

Ticket Price P100 / P110 687-5378

1 RENDITION
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20

2 GAMEPLAN

3 LUST CAUTION
11:10 2:20 5:30 8:40

4 UNREST
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 RESERVED

LIPA

Ticket Price (043) 757-3664 P.90 (043) 312-5870

1 RESIDENT EVUL 3
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 KNOCKED UP

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 P100 (046) 471-8188

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT APAT DAPAT APAT
4 HIGHLANDER

ANGELES

Ticket Price P.90 / P90 (045) 892-2346

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 STARDUST

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 THREE
3 KNOCKED UP

STARMILLS

P80 / P90 (045) 875-1827

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 RETRIBUTION
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price P70 (034) 441-0459

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 indieSine: STILL LIFE
4 STARDUST
5 KNOCKED UP
6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ILOILO

Ticket Price P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 338-8070

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 NO RESERVATIONS

Still Life
Live like a masterpiece.

a film by Katski Flores

watch this only at
Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod
OCTOBER 24 to 30

Is Sunshine Dizon's…

From page E2

ardent suitors **John Prats** and **Rayver Cruz** will follow her there.

Heard that John is more persistent in courting Shaina. Now that she's turning 18, she will already be "yaya-less." Will that make things easier for John and Rayver? Is Shaina's love life gonna shine on like her career?

New show

Q-11's "Planet Q," a weekly infotainment program about animals, nature and the environment, premieres Nov. 3, 7-8 p.m. It's a combination of videos lifted from the popular US TV program "The Planet's Funniest Animals" and equally interesting locally produced segments hosted by Vanessa Rangadhol, Renzo Almario, Rita Iringan, Pocholo Bustamante and Julie Anne San Jose a.k.a. Sugarpop.

For its pilot episode, the show will focus on Marimar's beloved furry friend Fulgoso. Planet Q is for all Q-rious animal lovers!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) CINE EUROPA
2 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 (DOLBY) RENDITION
4 (DOLBY) STURDUST / THE SEEKER
PREMIERE
THE LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 RENDITION
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)

starmall EDSA - SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 HIGHLANDER -V
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RENDITION
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433894
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

THEATRES
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RISE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
7 NO RESERVATION
8 KNOCKED UP
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) RENDITION
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 UNREST
5 RENDITION

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 RENDITION
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RETRIBUTION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 THE SEEKER / KNOCKED UP
2 RENDITION
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL / STURDUST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 NO RESERVATION / DECEMBER BOYS
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SKINWALKERS
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DAY WATCH
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) WEDDING DAZE
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 BATANG MAGDALENA
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 THREE
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 KNOCKED UP
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 RESIDENT EVIL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SIYA AY NAHDADALAGA
2 BEDROOM SECRET

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10	RENDITION R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	GAME PLAN G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30
LUST CAUTION R18 1:00,4:10,7:20,10:30	UNREST R13 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00	STARDUST G 12:40,2:55

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PIERCE BROSNAN GERARD BUTLER
007 VS 300
AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE.
AN UNSUSPECTING HUSBAND.
AN OBSESSIVE LOVER.
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
ONE HEAVENLY ENCOUNTER CAN BRING A LIFETIME OF HELL.
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 UNREST 11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL // STARDUST 10:30 , 12:30 , 3:00 // 5:00 , 7:50 , 10:35 PG-13 // GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 GAMEPLAN 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP
CINEMA 4 RENDITION 10:30 , 1:30 , 4:30 7:30 , 10:30 R-13
CINEMA 5 LUST CAUTION 10:35 , 1:35 , 4:35 7:35 , 10:35 R-18
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Oct. 31 / Nov 7,14,15 21,22, 28 &29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

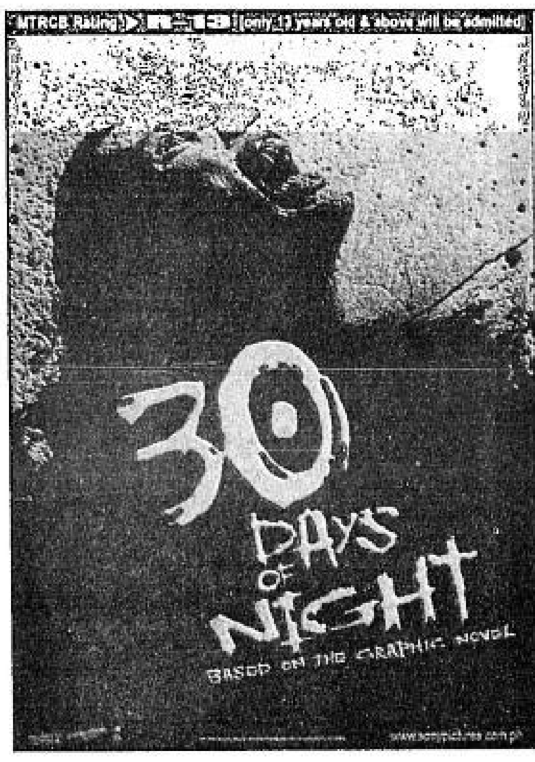
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116.

OPENS NOVEMBER 7
MTRCB Rating ▶ G All Ages Admitted
Half his size, twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.
Sneak Previews TODAY!
DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE GAMEPLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Eastwood City presents
Richard Poon
Watch him bring back the classics, with hits from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Harry Connick, Jr. and more...
Every Tuesday at 8PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
FREE ADMISSION!
Eastwood City
Tel: 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-II-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE GAMEPLAN 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 G
2 RENDITION 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35 R-13
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 1:40, 4:00 PG-13 / STARDUST 7:55, 10:40 G
4 LUST, CAUTION 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 R-18



MTRCB Rating ▶ R-13 [only 13 years old & above will be admitted]
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
www.sonypictures.com.ph

Fright Season Movie Event!

Vampires roam in 30 days of darkness in horror movie starring hot Josh Hartnett

For centuries, vampires have stayed in the dark, forced to hide each morning or else be destroyed by the sun's burning power.

Blood-thirsty, flesh-eating vampires viciously attack Barrow, Alaska, a remote town plunged into 30 days of darkness in winter, bringing its hapless residents to its knees. How do they survive till daylight finally comes?

Hot Hollywood actor and recent Philippines visitor Josh Hartnett stars as the embattled Sheriff Eben in 30 DAYS OF NIGHT, based on the groundbreaking graphic novel by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith.

Bring a date or the barkada to a theatre near you!

OPENS OCTOBER 31!

Ayala Malls CINEMAS
EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS TOMORROW at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3 Cinemas
From the studio that brought you DADDY DAY CARE
DADDY DAY CAMP
"Fun Entertainment for All Ages! Dads, bring the entire family!"
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
NOKIA Connecting People
glorietta GREENBELT

Start with the perfect view.

Follow it with the best location.

To create a flagship project.

That is taking place now.

Only from the country's

largest homebuilder,

VISTA LAND

& LIFESCAPES INC.

A flagship project of VISTA LAND

Behold the view at

Lake

CITY C

An Oasis Between Ma

The new Metropolitan Hub featuring a stunni

This sprawling, 60-hectare property developed by Vista Land, the country's largest homebuilder, introduces life at the
This 10-year masterplanned project in Sucat heralds a majestic 180° view of the Laguna de Bay an

Lakefront City Central is a world-class, self-sustaining community located against
as it is now dubbed as The New Metropolitan Hub. The mix, in this center, is so well-planne

Breathtakingly beautiful, truly complete. It's

The view fro

THE PARTNERSHIP THAT TRANSFORMED

The transformation of vast tracts of idle land in Sucat into a community where families cou
grand vision and tremendous passion, she spearheaded and preserved all estates and de
the country's largest homebuilder, Vista Land, and the Posadas family are proud to announce
residential enclaves offering low-to-mid-rise condominiums by Crown Asia and high-end re
center coming soon. Lakefront City Central provides an environment that is close to every
attraction. A transformation that owes its success to the collective vision and effort of the

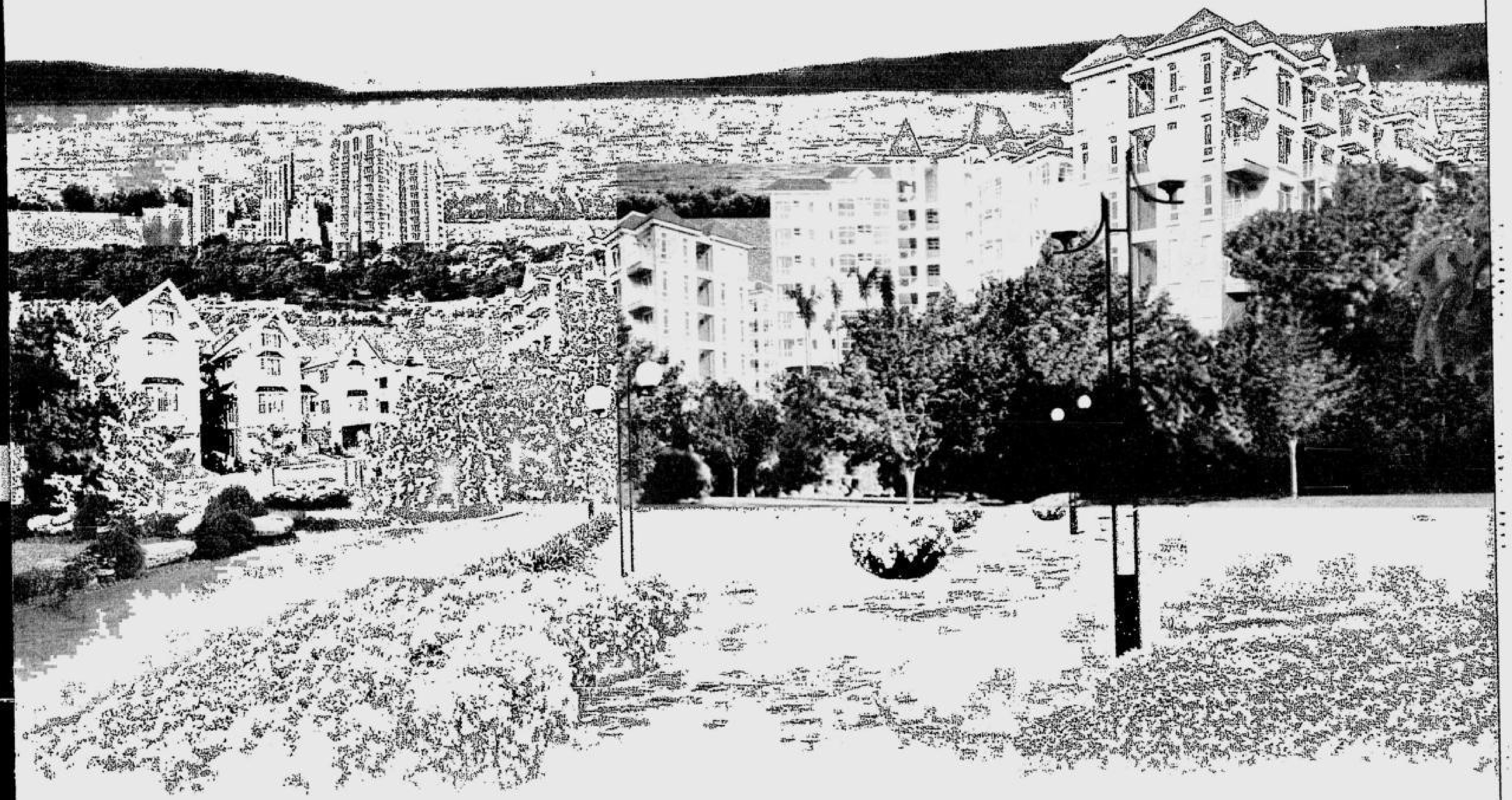
For a property preview, call 850 2868 or 837 3851. Vi

the center of it all.

front

ENTRAL

kati And Alabang



ng panorama of the majestic Laguna de Bay.

center—from home to work to fun, in an atmosphere refreshed by what is known as the green philosophy of living.
d the Sierra Madre mountains. It is a place that will change your view, your lifestyle, your world.

a glorious view of the lake, making it one of the most beautiful in the country—
and designed that it takes care of every aspect, interest and concern of each person's life.

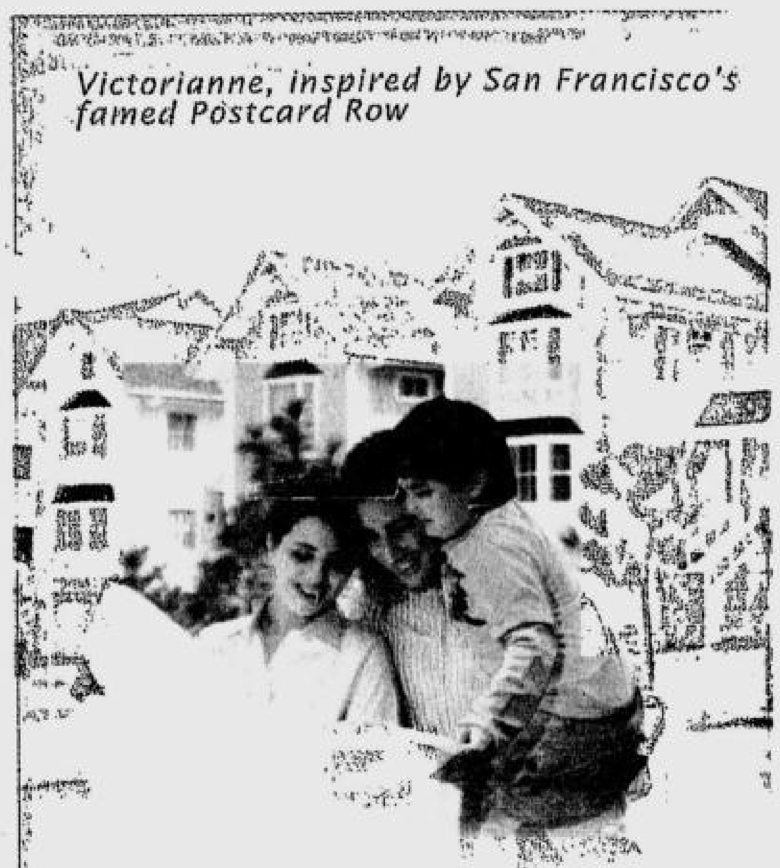
all waiting for you at Lakefront City Central.

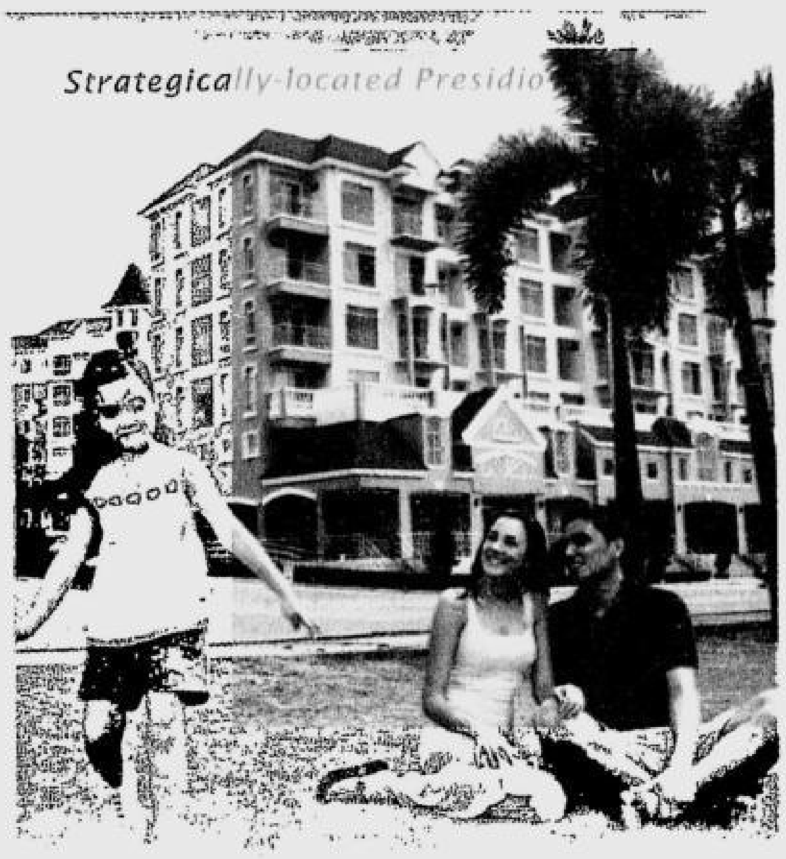
m the center.

SUCAT'S CITYSCAPE.

ld live and thrive started in 1969 through the efforts of Doña Estela Marfori-Posadas. Widowed at 38, yet blessed with a
velopments left behind by her late husband Don Augusto and her parents-in-law Mayor Juan and Doña Rosario. Today,
a transformation of a wider and bigger magnitude. Lakefront City Central is a 60-hectare property development of various
sidences by Brittany. Included in the development are commercial areas, entertainment and leisure centers, with a business
hing and is conducive to greater social interaction, turning it into Metro Manila's newest metropolitan hub and center of
eople behind Vista Land and the Marfori-Posadas family.

sit www.vistaland.com.ph. Brittany CROWNASIA

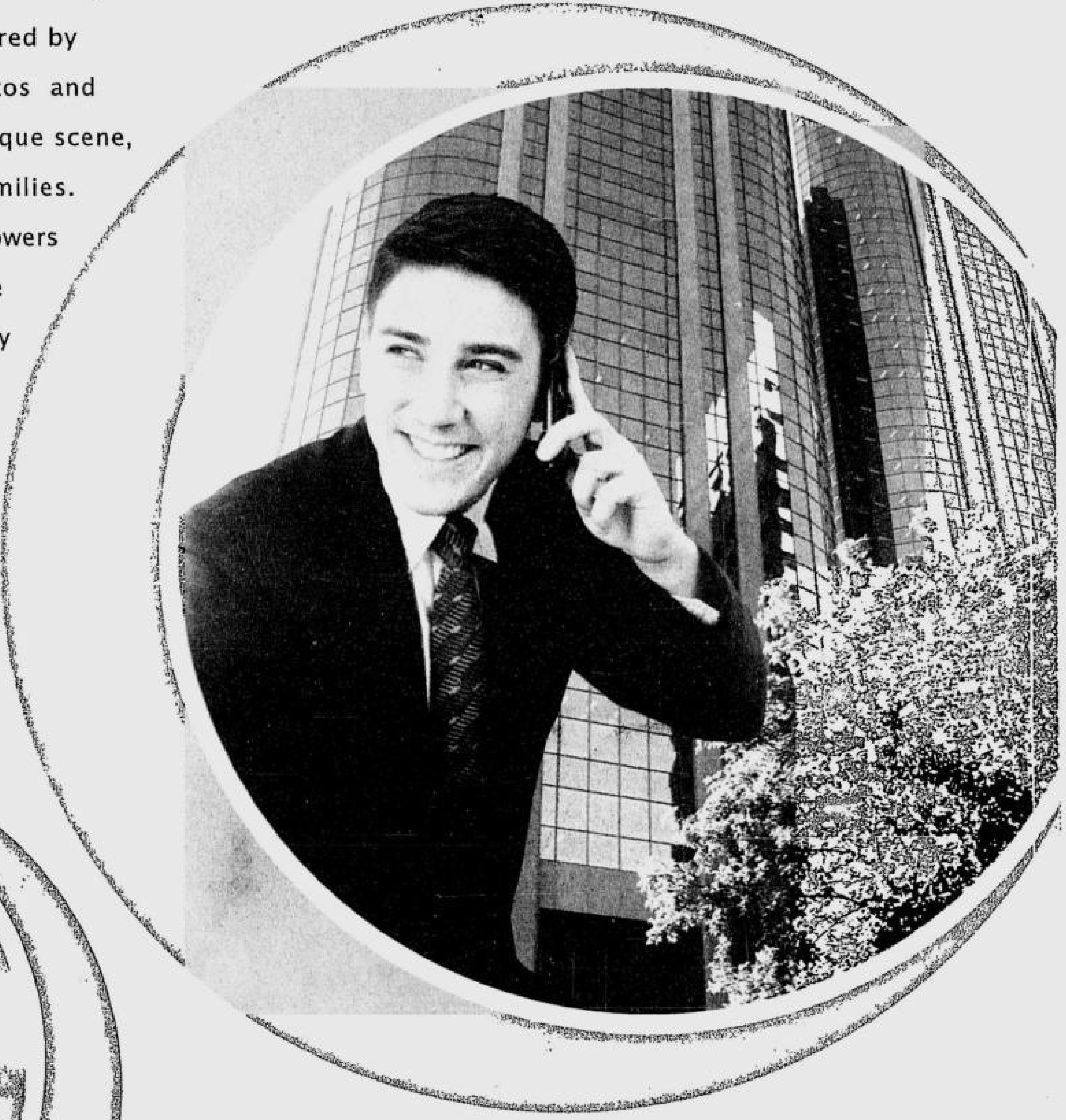

Victorianne, inspired by San Francisco's famed Postcard Row

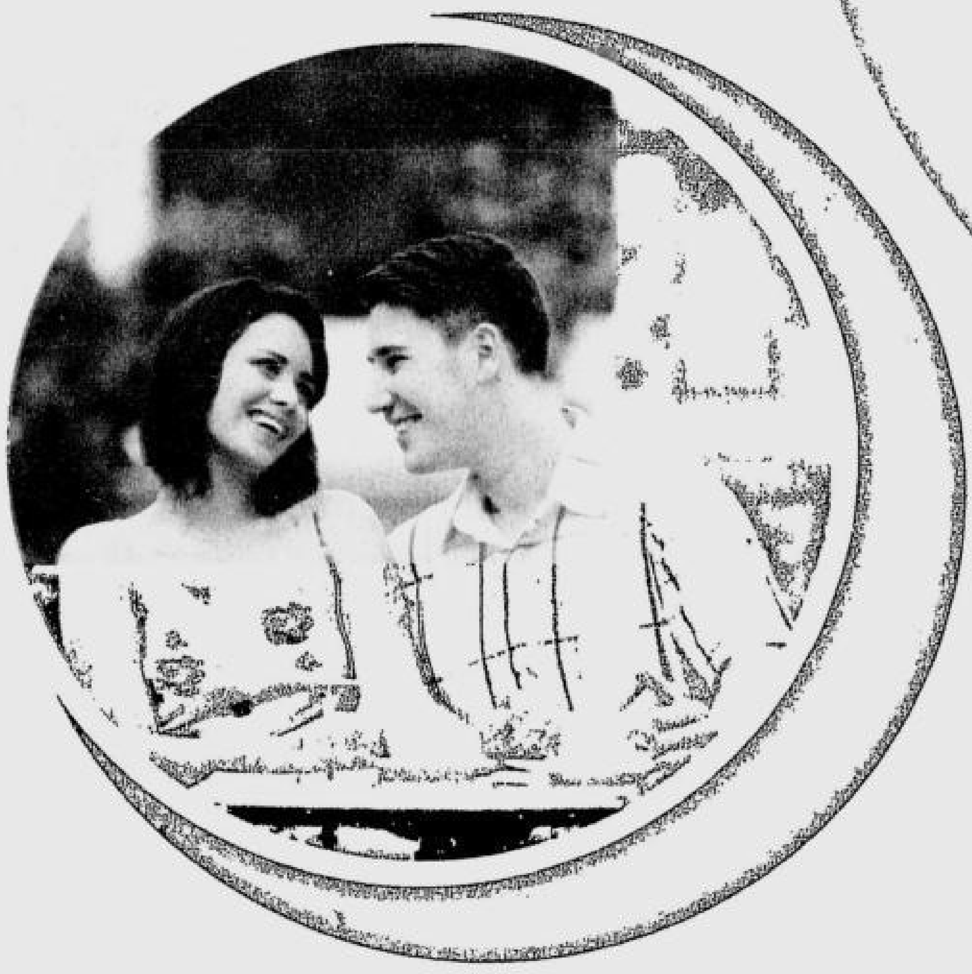

Strategically-located Presidio

180° lake view from The Marfori

Home Central.

Delight in an impressive diversity of communities, designed to fit your chosen lifestyle. Inspired by San Francisco's famed Postcard Row, duettos and quadrilles of *Victorianne* create a picturesque scene, quite suitable for individuals and small families. Upscale and elegant, *The Marfori* mid-rise towers are just the perfect spots for a 180-degree view of the Laguna de Bay, accompanied by the fresh, gentle bay breeze. Finally, the thriving *Presidio*, a bayside community of mid-to-high-rise buildings, creates its niche by being near major access areas like the C6 that connects Taguig and Ortigas, as well as the planned new railway system.





Work Central.

Bay Hub, Lakefront City Central's interactive business district, will soon cater to prestigious companies, BPOs, financial institutions and call centers.

Fun Central.

Restaurants, bars and even a music and arts center that make up *The Wharf* provide a wide selection for entertainment. The top-of-the line facilities and amenities at La Posada's clubhouse are already on the agenda for fun and invigorating activities. Designer and lifestyle shops will soon be found on Nob Hill, the epitome of the high life. A Country Club, Lifestyle Hotel and serviced apartments will complete the picture of utmost relaxation.

Green Central.

The concept of nature is clearly implemented in all aspects—through charming tree-lined entrance driveways, and a chic Central Park that echoes health, sophistication and urban living.